

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 338

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



INSIDE



More Soldiers

The United States is expanding its military force in Iraq to the highest level of the war—even higher than during the initial invasion in March 2003—in order to bolster security in advance of next month's national elections.

Page 21



Deadly Typhoon

High winds and heavy rain battered the eastern Philippines Thursday, as the region braced for yet another powerful typhoon and rescue workers struggled to find scores of missing from landslides and flash floods that killed more than 400 people.

Page 25



SHAN SEMAN

'DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE'

This wrecked vehicle was placed at the Garapan Fishing Base to remind motorists on the negative effects of driving when intoxicated. Another vehicle was placed in front of the Department of Public Safety yesterday, and more displays would be placed around the island during this holiday season. December is Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Fund investments at \$366M

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Up 6 percent in October 2004

The NMI Retirement Fund's market investments rose by \$21 million or about 6 percent in October 2004 compared with the previous month of September.

Records provided by Merrill Lynch showed that the Fund's investments as of Oct. 31 totaled \$366.3 million,

a marked improvement over September's \$345 million.

Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the good showing may be attributed to recent changes in the composition of money managers and equity sharing strategies.

In October, he said, the Fund began to

put money under Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities or TIPS.

TIPS are a special type of bonds considered to be the safest type of investment in the world—safer than any stock, bond, or commodity. TIPS are sold by the U.S. Treasury as part of its ongoing effort to help finance the U.S. bud-



Reyes

get deficit. Unlike other bonds, the principal amount of TIPS bond increases over time with the U.S. rate of inflation.

The Fund placed \$20.5 million on TIPS, representing

See FUND on Page 12

Mayors cite Legislature's redundant functions

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

It is about time that the Legislature look seriously at its budgeting and functions as it duplicates even the work carried out by municipal governments, said the may-

ors of Saipan and the Northern Islands, commenting on the proposed initiative calling for a part-time Legislature.

Saipan mayor Juan B. Tudela, who favors the budget reduction of the Legislature to ensure more funding for essential services, said that while other govern-

ment agencies have been implementing austerity measures since 1997, the Legislature's budget and staffing drastically increased rather than decreased.

Today, he said, the 14th Legislature employs 170 employees: 90 for the

See MAYORS on Page 12

CNMI car dealers sell nearly 1,500 vehicles

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's auto dealers have sold close to 1,500 vehicles from January to November this year, surpassing last year's sales by about 335 units.

Year-to-date figures released by the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association showed most auto brands increasing in sales except for Ford and Kia, the sales of which dropped by approximately 16 percent.

The auto dealership industry slightly

slowed down in November compared with the same month last year, with this year's sales totaling only 106 units, about 20.90 percent lower than November 2003's 134 total.

Last month's decline came about due to

See CNMI on Page 12

Court junks case vs NMC

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

The Superior Court has dismissed due to technicalities the fraud and breach of contract allegations filed against the Northern Marianas College by a



See COURT on Page 12

Local

DIABETES
+GREEN

SAM

The logo for "Island Snapshot" features the words in a stylized, handwritten red font with a dark shadow effect, set against a yellow background.

The Saipan Tribune accepts unsolicited pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 213-6287, 213-3448, or 213-8743.

Outcome of MPLA-Azmar talks bared today

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Results of the 15-day confidential negotiations between the Marianas Public Lands Authority and Azmar International will be brought out in the open today.

MPLA commissioner Edward Deleon Guerrero is scheduled to make a recommendation to the board of directors this afternoon on Azmar’s mining permit application, based on the bargaining talks that he and MPLA attorney Alan Lane conducted with Azmar over the past 15 days.

In an interview, MPLA chair Ana Demapan-Castro said the

board of directors would make a decision on whether or not to allow Azmar to mine Pagan pozzolan based on the management’s report.

“I can’t speak for the other members of the board, but I am ready to make a decision. I think the management has had ample time to review the application and make an informed recommendation. I think it’s time for the board to make a decision,” Demapan-Castro said.

The meeting, slated to start at 3:30pm, was initially set to be held on Rota. However, Public Lands decided to conduct the meeting at its Chalan Piao office in Saipan to allow more

staff members to attend, Demapan-Castro said.

On Nov. 16, the MPLA board of directors authorized Deleon Guerrero and Lane to present a draft temporary mining permit to Azmar to initiate a 15-day negotiation. The board made the decision despite Azmar’s failure to turn in most of the documents the company had been required to submit.

The board also approved a confidentiality agreement that obliged both Azmar and MPLA to keep mum about the negotiation proceedings while the talks were ongoing. This decision drew criticism from some lawmakers and the

watchdog group PaganWatch.

But in Nov. 23 press statement, Demapan-Castro stressed that “no official MPLA action will take place without the public first being informed of all the facts and circumstances.”

She added that the MPLA board, at its Nov. 16 special meeting, did not enter into nor commit itself to providing Azmar with anything more than a draft document for consideration and negotiations.

Sen. Reyes ineligible for deployment

His intention to serve again is noble but Sen. Pete P. Reyes’ present circumstances make him ineligible to be deployed for military assignment.

U.S. Army Chief for Enlisted Accessions Col. Norvel L. Dillard, in a Nov. 2, 2004, letter to Reyes, said that based on the senator’s background, prior military service, and age, he cannot qualify for enlistment.

“Your strong desire to continue to do your part in the Army is indicative of the love you have for our country. It is veterans like you that make us all proud to serve this nation,” said Dillard.

“Unfortunately, considering the information you have

provided on your background, prior military service and your age, you are ineligible for re-enlistment,” he said.

He said Reyes’ disqualification is pursuant to Title 10, U.S. Code-Armed Forces and Army Policy.

“It is also unfortunate that there is no waiver to this policy,” Dillard said.

The Army official thanked Reyes “for the outstanding service that you have already rendered to our great nation.”

Reyes, 58, an enlisted personnel during the Vietnam War, wrote Defense Secretary Ronald H. Rumsfeld on Aug. 16, asking that he be allowed to serve in Iraq, possibly along

with the CNMI reservists, in whatever capacity he can.

CAMACHO

HARDT EYE

CARS UNLIMITED

MCDO

PHI

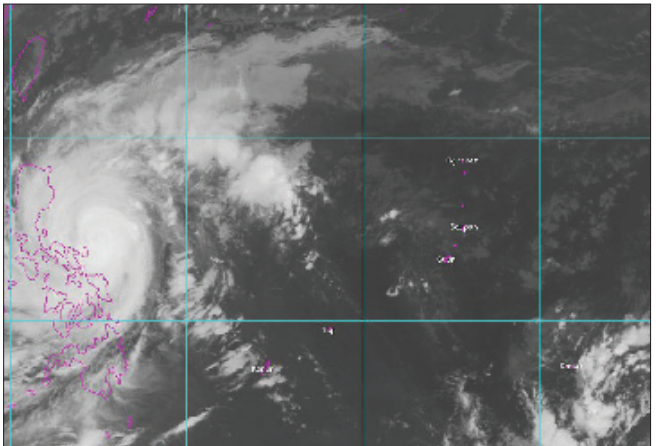
CB CRUZ

COMMUNITY Briefs

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2004									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Destination	Flight	Time	Days	Remarks	Origin	Flight	Time	Days	Remarks
Guam	SA 101	06:00	MTWTF		Guam	SA 102	07:00	MTWTF	
Manila	SA 103	06:30	MTWTF		Manila	SA 104	07:30	MTWTF	
Hong Kong	SA 105	07:00	MTWTF		Hong Kong	SA 106	08:00	MTWTF	
Honolulu	SA 107	07:30	MTWTF		Honolulu	SA 108	08:30	MTWTF	
London, England	SA 109	08:00	MTWTF		London, England	SA 110	09:00	MTWTF	
Los Angeles	SA 111	08:30	MTWTF		Los Angeles	SA 112	09:30	MTWTF	
Manila	SA 113	09:00	MTWTF		Manila	SA 114	10:00	MTWTF	
Melbourne	SA 115	09:30	MTWTF		Melbourne	SA 116	10:30	MTWTF	
Miami	SA 117	10:00	MTWTF		Miami	SA 118	11:00	MTWTF	
New York City	SA 119	10:30	MTWTF		New York City	SA 120	11:30	MTWTF	
Osaka	SA 121	11:00	MTWTF		Osaka	SA 122	12:00	MTWTF	
Paris	SA 123	11:30	MTWTF		Paris	SA 124	12:30	MTWTF	
Pusan	SA 125	12:00	MTWTF		Pusan	SA 126	13:00	MTWTF	
Rome	SA 127	12:30	MTWTF		Rome	SA 128	13:30	MTWTF	
Salem, Oregon	SA 129	13:00	MTWTF		Salem, Oregon	SA 130	14:00	MTWTF	
San Francisco	SA 131	13:30	MTWTF		San Francisco	SA 132	14:30	MTWTF	
Seoul	SA 133	14:00	MTWTF		Seoul	SA 134	15:00	MTWTF	
Tokyo, Japan	SA 135	14:30	MTWTF		Tokyo, Japan	SA 136	15:30	MTWTF	
Washington, DC	SA 137	15:00	MTWTF		Washington, DC	SA 138	16:00	MTWTF	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
City	Flight	Time	Days	Remarks	City	Flight	Time	Days	Remarks
Guam	FA 101	06:00	MTWTF		Guam	FA 102	07:00	MTWTF	
Manila	FA 103	06:30	MTWTF		Manila	FA 104	07:30	MTWTF	
Hong Kong	FA 105	07:00	MTWTF		Hong Kong	FA 106	08:00	MTWTF	
Honolulu	FA 107	07:30	MTWTF		Honolulu	FA 108	08:30	MTWTF	
London, England	FA 109	08:00	MTWTF		London, England	FA 110	09:00	MTWTF	
Los Angeles	FA 111	08:30	MTWTF		Los Angeles	FA 112	09:30	MTWTF	
Manila	FA 113	09:00	MTWTF		Manila	FA 114	10:00	MTWTF	
Melbourne	FA 115	09:30	MTWTF		Melbourne	FA 116	10:30	MTWTF	
Miami	FA 117	10:00	MTWTF		Miami	FA 118	11:00	MTWTF	
New York City	FA 119	10:30	MTWTF		New York City	FA 120	11:30	MTWTF	
Osaka	FA 121	11:00	MTWTF		Osaka	FA 122	12:00	MTWTF	
Paris	FA 123	11:30	MTWTF		Paris	FA 124	12:30	MTWTF	
Pusan	FA 125	12:00	MTWTF		Pusan	FA 126	13:00	MTWTF	
Rome	FA 127	12:30	MTWTF		Rome	FA 128	13:30	MTWTF	
Salem, Oregon	FA 129	13:00	MTWTF		Salem, Oregon	FA 130	14:00	MTWTF	
San Francisco	FA 131	13:30	MTWTF		San Francisco	FA 132	14:30	MTWTF	
Seoul	FA 133	14:00	MTWTF		Seoul	FA 134	15:00	MTWTF	
Tokyo, Japan	FA 135	14:30	MTWTF		Tokyo, Japan	FA 136	15:30	MTWTF	
Washington, DC	FA 137	15:00	MTWTF		Washington, DC	FA 138	16:00	MTWTF	

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., NOVEMBER 11, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nanmadol centered near 13n128e...just outside of discussion area...is moving west-northwest at 22 mph with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms extend outward 200 miles from the center. A monsoon trough extends from Typhoon Nanmadol southeastward to eq153e. Convergent wind flow associated with Typhoon Nanmadol and also along the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 5n and 19n from 130e to 138e. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei and Chuuk between the equator and 10n from 153e to 160e and between the equator and 4n from 160e to 165e. A shear line extends from 25n165e to 22n156e to 21n130e. Low cloud and showers are found along and within 200 miles north of the boundary.

SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph.
Temperature: Highs around 86. Lows around 76.

GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph.
Temperature: Highs around 86. Lows around 76.

PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

YAP AND ULITHI
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

MAJURO
Partly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Cloudy	68 F (20 C)	60 F (16 C)
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	52 F (11 C)	35 F (2 C)
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77 F (25 C)	66 F (19 C)
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 F (29 C)	74 F (23 C)
London, England	Cloudy	45 F (7 C)	34 F (1 C)
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 F (19 C)	43 F (6 C)
Manila	Thunder	88 F (31 C)	79 F (26 C)
Melbourne	Sunny	85 F (29 C)	71 F (22 C)
Miami	Sunny	83 F (28 C)	68 F (20 C)
New York City	Partly Cloudy	48 F (9 C)	36 F (2 C)
Osaka	Sunny	53 F (12 C)	36 F (2 C)
Paris	Partly Cloudy	40 F (4 C)	30 F (-1 C)
Pusan	Sunny	59 F (15 C)	43 F (6 C)
Rome	Partly Cloudy	62 F (17 C)	49 F (9 C)
Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	46 F (8 C)	34 F (1 C)
San Francisco	Sunny	56 F (13 C)	41 F (5 C)
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	51 F (11 C)	34 F (1 C)
Tokyo, Japan	Sunny	53 F (12 C)	43 F (6 C)
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	53 F (12 C)	35 F (2 C)

Senate OKs technical school proposal

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

The bill proposing to create a technical school on Saipan is now up for the governor’s signature following the Senate’s approval of the proposal yesterday.

The Senate’s decision was formally made in yesterday’s session.

The proposal, House Bill 14-210, seeks to authorize the Public School System to develop the technical education program

at Marianas High School in efforts to reduce dependence on foreign workers in the CNMI.

The House Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Justo Quitugua, who also authored the bill, said there is a need to integrate technical curriculum in public high schools to prepare students for higher education or immediate employment.

It said that many students who are not inclined to pursue higher education are experiencing tremendous difficulty in finding jobs in the Common-

wealth for lack of technical skills or training.

The bill was introduced early this year based on a PSS survey indicating that 88 percent responded favorably to the creation of a technical school.

The bill seeks to establish a curriculum development advisory committee to recommend courses that would be taught at the technical school.

According to the bill, the Commissioner on Education would appoint teachers and program administrators to the

committee from parent-teacher associations of public high schools, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, Saipan Rotary Club, Northern Marianas College, and other groups.

The bill states that technical education may be expanded to other schools, while the curriculum may be expanded to include other courses upon the availability of funds.

The bill identifies the non-

resident workers’ fee and revenues from jackpot winnings as possible sources of funding for the program.

A feasibility study indicated that over \$2 million would be initially needed to convert the

Marianas High School into a technical school. The program would need close to \$860,000 during the second year, and over \$1 million for the third year. The costs would cover personnel, equipment and supplies.

House of Manhoben gives back to community

Youths currently involved with activities at the House of Manhoben recently contributed to efforts to keep the island clean.

About 20 youths, their families, and House of Manhoben staff gathered Saturday morning at the Coral Ocean Point beach and cleaned the area, picking trash and debris.

“Our Beach Cleanup is one of the projects on the youth’s list to contribute to our community,” said program coordinator Dolores Taman.

The group chose the site after being assisted by Coral Ocean

Point Resort during its summer swimming program. Taman said the resort allowed them to use the pool, which the kids used during the program.

In all, over 100 children are registered at the House of Manhoben, which provides kids with a venue to explore positive activities.

Children benefit from free tutoring services, a well as other activities including canoeing and swimming. The center is also equipped with several computers, a big screen television, a billiards table, table ten-

nis equipment, and more.

“This is all for the youth,” Taman said. “It’s a place for them to keep busy doing positive things instead of roaming the streets and getting into trouble, so I encourage parents to come in and register their kids. They’re invited to visit the center and see what we do here.”

Taman is currently assisted by volunteers from the Public School System’s Americorps program and the Northern Marianas College’s Talent Search department.

Taman also encourages in-

terested individuals to assist with activities.

Fore more information, contact Taman at 234-9026. *(Shan Seman)*

Sobriety checkpoints on Rota next week

The Department of Public Safety on Rota will be conducting three sobriety checkpoints at different sites next week.

The first set up will be on Dec. 11, 2004, at the San Francisco Highway, Sinapalo 3, between the southern entrance to Sinapalo 2 and Coral Pit. It will last from 7pm until about 8:15pm.

The second will be setup will be on the same day at the San Francisco Highway, Teteto, from the northern end of the pavilion to the southern end of Teteto beach. It will be operational at approximately 9:15pm for 75 minutes and will be terminated at about 10:30pm.

The third will be set up at San Francisco Highway, Ugis from Saligai area to Rota Cave Museum. It will be operational at approximately 11:30pm, Dec. 11, for 75 minutes and will be terminated at about 12:45am, Dec. 12, 2004.

The checkpoints will be terminated if it begins to rain.

The vehicle stopped at the sobriety checkpoints will be determined based on traffic volume, i.e., one in every three vehicles, one in every five vehicles, and one in every 10 vehicles shall be stopped.

It will be the on-scene supervisor’s responsibility to implement changes in the systematic sequence of vehicles stopped if the traffic pattern necessitates a change.

The location of personnel briefing will be conducted at Rota DPS on Dec. 11 at 6pm. The source of illumination for these operations will be streetlights and portable floodlights.

WOMENS CLINIC

ACE HARDWARE

BOX OFFICE VIDEO

ISLA FINANCIAL
+GREEN

JUANNYS

NIKKO

Pete A. jumps on initiative to federalize water improvement

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio recently swung by Honolulu on his way back to Washington, D.C. to meet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials and talk about the preliminary water strategy to improve the CNMI’s water system.

This comes on the heels of a recent mandate from the U.S. Congress calling for the Secretary of the Interior to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and detailed implementation program for the plans developed by the corps.

Congress included this mandate in its 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act along with \$1 million for water system improvement. The report issued with the Act cited that the magnitude of the need to improve the CNMI water system far exceeds any possible resolution from funds made available to the Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations, and that existing programmatic expertise of other Federal agencies is not being used fully.

The report requires that the Secretary of the Interior provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with an implementation plan that fully utilizes and coordinates those authorities to ensure that the goals of the plans are achieved in a timely, cost-effective manner. The report is to contain an implementation plan to identify projects, responsible agency, funding needs, implementation schedule, any statutory or other changes necessary to implement the program, and a specific timetable for full completion.

Tenorio met with the Eugene Ban, director of programs; Roy Gyo, Eugene Ban, and Paul Mizue. They are key staff of Honolulu District Engineer and Commander Lt. Col. David E. Anderson of the Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division.

During the meetings, Tenorio emphasized the seriousness of the CNMI water system’s deficiencies, saying, “It’s a fact that we in the CNMI are

the only American citizens that cannot drink our homes’ water supply due to high salinity and persistent contamination of the water supply.”

He said his principal objective is to work closely with federal agencies, including the corps, to develop a plan to provide 24-hour water service with a water quality that meets all drinking water standards.

The corps reportedly offered to help in any way possible to achieve these goals, and offered to help in the CNMI’s well drilling program and in training CUC personnel in drilling techniques and waterworks technology.

“It was a very productive initial meeting and I look forward to working very closely with them. I will be meeting with Office of Insular Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Dave Cohen as soon as I return. If the Inter-governmental Group on Insular Areas is going to have this report ready by July 31 next year, they should begin work very soon,” said Tenorio.

52 applicants employed through NEG

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

About 52 applicants on Saipan have already been given tempo-

rary jobs through the National Emergency Grant and are currently with various government agencies, assisting with cleanup of typhoon debris, flood prevention, mitigation, recovery efforts, debris removal, and repair work due to the effects of Supertyphoon Chaba.

NEG administrator Jerry Kintol said yesterday that the 52 approved applicants began working this week at the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

He said more employees are to begin working possibly by next week, with NEG program officials only awaiting their drug test results before approving their application.

Kintol said that, with the \$2 million awarded to the Commonwealth, about 70 applicants on Saipan, 20 on Tinian, and 40 on Rota would be given temporary jobs.

Drug tests have already been conducted on Rota and results are expected soon, while a technician from the Office of Personnel Management will be on Tinian on Monday to conduct testing for applicants.

“Testing on Rota is already done and we’re just waiting for the results,” he said. “Once results are in, we’re going to process the papers and hopefully by next week they’ll start [work].”

Kintol explained that NEG staff is currently compiling needed data necessary for their application to the U.S. Department of Labor for additional funds.

He said hours needed to complete the tasks are sub-

mitted by each participating government agency. The NEG reviews the number of hours, double-checking if the amount requested by the agencies is sufficient for the tasks before submitting a total number to the U.S. Department of Labor.

If more funds are granted, applications submitted during the intake process last month would be reviewed again before approving more applicants.

“We’ll take whatever we can get,” he said.

Earlier, NEG project director Jesse P. Stein reiterated that NEG funds are not enough to provide essential services requested by the government agencies.

Because the \$2 million is not intended for payroll alone—it is also used for operations cost, equipment for granted employees, and rental of NEG office space, among others—the current fund would only accommodate roughly about 140-150 participants.

Stein said the request may range from between \$5- to \$10 million in additional funds.

In all, over 1,000 applications were submitted during the intake process, with about 781 applying on Saipan, about 145 on Tinian, and 150 on Rota.

Approved applicants are paid \$8 per hour for a labor-intensive 40-hour workweek. Employment through the grant will last each employee six months or 1,040 hours.

The NEG are discretionary funds under the Dislocated Worker Program of WIA and the U.S. Department of Labor. It is awarded to states and territories to assist with major economic dislocations.

Kintol also extended appreciation to all agencies involved with the NEG program.

AGO to aid deceased worker

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

Attorney general Pam Brown said her office will look into the possible use of the government's repatriation funds for the shipment of the remains of a nonresident worker who died three months ago.

"The fund can be tapped to assist.... I've allowed in the past its use to assist workers. I will look into it," Brown told reporters yesterday.

At the same time, the government, she said, would go after

the employer of the deceased worker, Pedro Hipolito.

She said Gov. Juan N. Babauta is particularly concerned about the situation and asked the AGO to find ways to assist the worker.

"The governor is very sympathetic to this situation," Brown said.

Hipolito's body remains in the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue since he died last September, reportedly due to brain stem damage. He reportedly suffered a blunt trauma to the back of his neck after he was hit by a flying window shutter during

typhoon Chaba in August.

The Filipino community, meantime, has begun separate fundraising campaigns to help defray the cost for embalming and shipment of Hipolito's remains.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has reportedly learned that Hipolito was an undocumented worker.

OWWA's Advisory Council is accepting donations for Hipolito. The OWWA office, headed by Mary Daet, is located on the ground floor of Nauru Building in Susupe. It can be reached by calling 235-6992.

Local student lands on Who's Who

Nina Nicole Maratita Sablan, a student at the Saipan Southern High School, has been included in the 38th annual edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students, 2003-2004.

Sablan is the daughter of proud parents Frank R. and Vicky M. Sablan of Saipan.

Who's Who, published by Educational Communications Inc. in Austin, Texas, is the largest recognition program and publication in the nation honoring high achieving high school students.

Students are nominated by high school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches and educa-



Sablan

tional organizations based upon students' academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities.

Traditionally, 97 percent of Who's Who students are college-bound.

The 38th edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students®, 2003-2004, published in 15 regional volumes, features nearly 600,000 students or just 5 percent of the nation's 15 million high school students. They represent approximately 20,000 of the 24,000 public, private and parochial high schools in the country.

Who's Who students also compete for \$20,000 in scholarship awards and participate in the publication's Annual Survey of High Achievers, an annual opinion poll of teen attitudes.

GLUSHKOS

COVENANT

COSTCO
+BLUE

Sinkhole to undergo environmental assessment

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Government agencies led by the Division of Environmental Quality have agreed to conduct an environmental assessment of the San Vicente sinkhole, amid suspicions that the illegal dumpsite not only contains unexploded ordnance but also hazardous hospital wastes.

Agencies reached the con-

sensus in a meeting held at the DEQ office Wednesday.

Quoting oral history cited by the Historic Preservation Office, DEQ environmental specialist Tina Sablan said that there used to be hospitals in the area before World War II. The sinkhole might have been used to dump hospital wastes, based on this account.

The account raises the risks in conducting a cleanup of the

sinkhole. Earlier, Sablan cited anecdotes that the site was used as a dumping site by the Japanese military, possibly leaving unexploded ordnance at the sinkhole.

The agencies had initially agreed to put up a fence around the area to prevent residents from dumping wastes at the sinkhole, a 60-foot-deep, 40-foot wide natural geological formation that has a cave-like

structure at the bottom.

To be funded by the office of Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, the fence would be designed and installed by the Department of Public Works, according to Sablan, who added that the project could be completed by January 2005.

Sablan also said the Saipan Mayor's Office would put up a "no dumping" sign at the site, which would be provided by

the DEQ. The agencies agreed on the conduct of an initial cleanup of the top portion of the dumpsite.

After the initial cleanup, the environmental assessment would proceed. Sablan said the DPW agreed to fund the assessment, which is necessary before implementing a full restoration plan for the dumpsite.

Besides DEQ, agencies involved in the project include

DPW, Solid Waste Management Division, Saipan Mayor's Office, Coastal Resources Management Office, Department of Public Safety, and Historic Preservation Office.

The lieutenant governor, who also heads the CNMI Solid Waste Task Force, and lawmakers such as House Reps. Joe Guerrero and Janet Maratita, also form part of the interagency group.

NMI museum features exhibit on Japanese era

The main gallery of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan is currently showing "*The Japanese Administration in the Northern Mariana Islands: The Birth of the Industrial Period 1914—1941.*"

This special exhibit portrays a seminal era in CNMI history, with photographs and historical artifacts not previously displayed that will intrigue even the most seasoned history buff.

"The exhibit will extend only through Dec. 31, so bring your children, parents, students, colleagues, visitors, and friends to this one-time event before it closes," a statement from the museum said.

The Museum's Gift Shop is now featuring, for the first time, memorabilia items from the 60th Anniversary Commemoration of

the World War II Battles for Saipan and Tinian. In addition to clothing, commemorative coins, maps, and souvenir items, of special interest is a new stock of books covering a wide range of World War II- and Pacific-related topics. Many of these titles have not previously been available for sale in the CNMI, and new titles are arriving each week.

"If you missed the chance last June to buy 60th Anniversary commemorative items, and are looking for unique Christmas gift ideas, stop by the Museum Gift Shop. Every purchase helps preserve and promote CNMI history!" the statement adds.

The Museum's Main Gallery and Gift Shop are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4:30pm, and on Saturday from 9am until noon.

Ballet masters headline 'Nutcracker' performance

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Four Russian ballet masters and a young ballet student are now on island for the third annual staging of the Christmas classic "The Nutcracker" as well as for a concert slated to begin this evening at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The performers hail from two different theaters in Russia: the Saratov Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet and the Perm State Theater of Opera and Ballet. They have begun rehearsals to prepare for the ballet performances, scheduled for Dec. 3, 4, and 5.

Saratov's Liudmila Teleus and Daniil Kurnov and Perm State's Tatiana Bolshuhina and Nikolai Kalabine will lead over 50 students of the Glushko's Academy of Performing



Arts in performances.

They will also be joined by Kurnov's 11-year-old daughter, Daniela Kurnova, who will play the part of Clara in "The Nutcracker."

"It's a big honor for us to have them here to perform with our students," ballet instructor Anna Glushko said in an interview yesterday.

The performances, which will begin at 7pm, aim to bring the legacy of Russian ballet to Saipan

while giving Glushko's students an opportunity to work with professional ballet dancers.

She said the audience can expect this year's performance to be bigger than before, as it will involve more dances and costume changes. She added that her students, as well as their parents, are currently working as a professional ballet company in preparation for this weekend's shows.

"It's a great experience for everybody," Glushko said.

Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffman, "The Nutcracker" is a holiday fairy tale about a young German girl, Clara, who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince, a fierce battle against a Mouse King, and a journey to the enchanted Land of Snow and Land of Sweets.

Tickets to the performance are sold \$10 each.

Tax & Rev eyed to handle vehicle registration, driver’s license



Maratita

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

A bill seeking to transfer the handling of registering vehicles and issuing operator’s licenses recently passed the House of Representatives and now awaits similar passage by the Senate.

House Bill 14-182, authored by Rep. Janet U. Maratita, aims to create an office under the Department of Finance’s Division of Revenue and Taxation solely for registration and issuing of licenses.

In its review report, the committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, chaired by Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama, said that the transfer “will be in the best interest of the public.”

“The transfer of vehicle registration to [DOF] will keep the vehicle registrant’s information in one department,” the report said. “For the first time, it will consolidate the vehicle registrations, operators’ licenses and payments under one agency’s jurisdictions.

The committee also indicated that the move will result in a “one-stop shop” for the public during registration or renewal process, which would minimize inconvenience and increase productivity and services to the public.

The functions are currently handled at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under the Department of Public Safety.

If signed into law, DOF would not need to send staff to BMV to handle payments, the report indicated. DOF would handle all matters affecting vehicle registration and operator’s licenses. This will mean employing the necessary staff, including a principal executive, to carry out the functions.

The office may also assist BMV in investigating title and registration of vehicles.

Further, the report explained that the transfer would enable DPS to reassign officers to other department functions.

“The implementation of this act will also allow the [DPS] to re-deploy all police officers assigned to [BMV] to other essential police functions,” it said. “The reassignment of these officers will enhance public service

protection by the [DPS].”

If signed into law, DPS has 90 days to transfer all items used for registration of vehicles and operator’s license as well as working capital, cash, accounts payable and receivable, deposits, books, records, and documents relating to the functions.

Also, all DPS personnel used for the operation of vehicle registration and issuance of operator’s licenses would be transferred to the Office of Vehicle and Driver Registration.



Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 268

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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The price gouging stupor

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Letters to the Editor

Azmar’s worst nightmare

CTC poses series of questions to Verizon, PTI

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission wants to know the extent of how divestiture of cable ownership may pressure Verizon to seek a rate increase.

The CTC also wants to find out how much customers are paying, if any, for cable rates that compensate the non-used capacity in the facility.

"Is this excess capacity, for which the jurisdictional customers should not pay? If so, what is the amount at issue?" the CTC asked. "If the customers are properly paying for this unused capacity, what are they getting for that payment? And to what rights and services, if any, are

they thereby entitled?"

These are just some of the issues in the questions forwarded by the commission to Verizon owner Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. and prospective purchaser Pacific Telecom Inc., as well as to Gov. Juan N. Babauta and CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell, who are intervenors in the companies' application for sale approval pending at the CTC.

During its Nov. 16 meeting, the CTC decided to issue the written questions to the parties to obtain answers that would further shed light on the issue of divestiture.

The intervenors have proposed that all the assets of the submarine network, including the submerged and terrestrial

fiber optic cable, be placed in a trust during the closing of the transaction between MTC and PTI. They asked that the CTC appoint a trustee, who should hold a public auction for ownership interests in the trust within 90 days.

Under the proposal, the trustee will have the power to sell the assets or ownership interest of the trust, up to 33 percent of the total capacity currently available on the interisland cable. No party or combination of parties may acquire more than 33 percent of the total ownership interests or assets of the trust. Unsold portions of the trust will devolve back to Verizon's ownership.

During that meeting, Babauta's lawyer, James Livingstone, said the parties should be given time to prepare and argue

their respective points in connection with the CTC's questions, even as MTC and PTI's lawyers pressed that the matter be discussed during that time.

The CTC further inquired as to what extent would opening up some part of the cable to traffic to a "non-MTC gatekeeper" produce a net increase in net revenues to MTC.

The CTC also asked PTI to identify the specific telecom network improvements it would implement within the next three years as part of the company's commitment to infuse fresh capital of \$20 million in the next five years. It also asked how divestiture might affect PTI and the level of service and impact the decisions to make the capital improvements.

Meanwhile, CTC executive director

Adam Turner said that the audit report prepared by Econimcs.com would remain confidential until the issue on which portion could be publicized is resolved. MTC and PTI have asked the commission for an edited public copy.

The final report by Deloitte and Touche has yet to be distributed to the parties, with Livingstone saying that he has yet to receive a copy of the report yesterday.

The Economics.com report completed the financial analysis that runs projections of best case, worst case, and baseline scenarios for Verizon. Deloitte and Touche would complete the full audit report that would detail PTI's financial capability to respond to these scenarios once the company takes over Verizon's operations.

Labor hearing office reverses denial of 5 alien worker permit applications

The Department of Labor Hearing Office has reversed the denial of permit applications filed by an employer for five nonresident workers.

In a Nov. 24 administrative order, hearing officer Linn Asper allowed workers Chen Jing, Zhang Yan, Rafael Alvarado, Aurea Baloloy, and Estrella Jumilla to transfer to or continue working for employer Mariano K. Pangelinan.

The Division of Labor earlier denied the permit applications filed for the five workers due to deficiencies. The missing requirements included a certified job vacancy

announcement in applications for Chen, Alvarado, and Jumilla; tax documents in the application for Zhang; and cash bond in the application for Baloloy.

But in a Nov. 23 hearing, Pangelinan showed proof that he had complied with the requirements, prompting Asper to reverse the Labor division's denial of the applications.

However, Asper noted that the lapse of time between Chen and Zhang's denied applications and the hearing office's decision means that another renewal application is now due.

Thus, Asper ordered Pangelinan to

file new renewal applications for Chen and Zhang on or before Dec. 31.

At the same time, Asper told the Division of Labor to resume processing the applications for Alvarado, Baloloy, and Jumilla.

"If the employer fails to comply with any of the conditions stated in this order, the department may order the employer to show cause at a hearing as to why sanctions, which may include a bar from employing nonresidents workers in the Commonwealth, should not be imposed on the employer," Asper said. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

FUND

From Page 1

6 percent of its total investments. The agency intends to increase its TIPS investment to 10 percent.

"TIPS is the new investment for us. It makes money even if prime rate goes up or down," said Reyes.

As of Oct. 31, the Fund's large cap equities amounted to \$179.8 million or about 49 percent of total investment; small capital equities totaled \$46.6 million; international equities, \$48 million; fixed income, \$55 million; TIPS, \$20.5 million; and cash, \$16.2 million.

Reyes said the cash asset remains with the Bank of Hawaii, which would soon be assigned to a new money manager.

The Fund, in consultation with Merrill Lynch, terminated its contracts early this year with at least three money managers due to unsatisfactory performance. Reyes said managers are required "to beat at least 2 percent" of the market. Those terminated included Invesco Asia, Credit Suisse, and Bjurman.

The Fund currently maintains the following money managers: Atalanta Sosnoff Capital Corp., Atalanta Sosnoff Sabre, S&P 500 Index Fund (iS-

hares), Stratem and Co., Renaissance Investment Mgt., Nicholas Applegate, Gabelli Asset Mgt., EAFEETF (formerly CSAM), Templeton Investments, Provident Investment Counsel, and Income Research and Management.

IRM, the newest manager hired, handles TIPS investments.

Fund's investments plunged to as low as \$189 million in October 2002 as its international equities went haywire due in part to the impact brought by the 9/11 crisis. The market performance began to improve about middle of last year.

MAYORS

From Page 1

House of Representatives and 80 for the Senate.

The Legislature was much leaner years back, he indicated.

Interestingly, according to Borja, "many of these employees function as 'community workers,' which is really a function of the municipal government rather than a legislative function."

In fact, he said that the community workers of the Office of the Mayor "frequently find themselves out in the field working side-by-side with community workers of the Legislature."

He said the passage of House Legislative Initiative 14-8, or the proposed part-time Legislature, would save the government millions of dollars that could be used for the delivery of public services and education.

Borja said the initiative would compel the Legislative Branch to focus on its fundamental job: enacting laws and

determining key government policies.

"I humbly urge the 14th Legislature to do the right thing and let the people of the CNMI decide [on] this important issue," said Borja.

If passed by both chambers, the initiative would be placed on the ballot for people to vote on during the general elections next year.

Northern Islands mayor Valentin Taisakan said that over the years, the functions of the Legislature "seem to have expanded to areas that really should be within the responsibilities of the Executive Branch at both state and local levels of government."

"While members of the Legislature participate in activities outside of law-making functions, it is duplicating the responsibilities of the four municipal governments," he said.

Taisakan said it may not necessarily be the fault of the Legislature, given the cultural norm in the community. "However, this has to change so that our limited government resources can

be polled together so that we can be more responsive and accountable to our community needs and expectations," he said.

HLI 14-8 aims to junk the members' salary currently set at \$39,300 each and cut their operational budget from \$155,000 to \$50,000. From the annual budget of \$5.2 million, the bill aims to reduce the legislative funding to \$2 million.

The initiative entitles members of the Legislature to find work in government and in the private sector—a sensitive area that is feared to breed irregularities and corrupt practices arising from a possible conflict of interest.

Members of the community have called on the House of Representatives to further refine the proposal to ensure that it achieves its desired goal: to run the Legislature at a more cost-effective manner.

The House of Representatives consists of 18 members while the Senate has nine members.

COURT

From Page 1

former employee.

In a Nov. 22 order, Judge Robert C. Naraja said his decision was grounded on procedural concerns, not the actual merits of the case. "Therefore, nothing in this order should be interpreted to mean that there was, or was not, merit to any of the plaintiff's allegations," he stressed.

The allegations filed by Richard U. Hofschneider stemmed from the termination of his employment with NMC on June 15, 1998. Hofschneider worked as liaison for the NMC Tinian Satellite campus from Sept. 24, 1989 until he took a sabbatical leave in 1993.

He returned to the college in 1996 as affirmative action officer/instructor and was later promoted to the position of legal counsel.

However, in June 1998, Hofschneider met with then NMC president Agnes McPhetres to discuss his intention to withdraw his retirement contributions. To do so, he must resign from NMC and then be reinstated to his employment status after two weeks of separation from the government.

McPhetres allegedly told him that he could not come back to work once he resigned because the NMC Board of Regents had adopted a policy to freeze all new hiring and had decided to eliminate his position.

Hofschneider said he was forced to resign from the college amid moves by the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, then led by his cousin Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, to conduct an oversight hearing on the alleged mismanagement of NMC.

In a complaint he submitted on June 15, 2004, Hofschneider asked the court to reinstate him to his original position and be granted all benefits, including back wages and other entitlements.

CNMI

From Page 1

the low sales turnout for certain brands such Ford, Kia, Honda, and Mitsubishi. Joeten Motors only sold four units each of Ford and Honda, much lower than November 2003's sales of 18 and 19 units, respectively.

During the same month last year, Joeten and Triple J Motors sold 11 units each of Kia and Mitsubishi vehicles. Last month, Kia and Mitsubishi's sales dropped to two and five, respectively.

However, the 1,477-total units sold from January to November significantly increased from the 1,142 total

He also urged the court to take various actions against the defendants: then acting NMC president Antonio Deleon Guerrero, NMC chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, former president Joaquin Sablan, former president Agnes McPhetres, former vice president for administration Felicitas Abraham, former human resources director Kohne Ramon, and former chair Fermin Atalig.

Last July 6, attorney F. Matthew Smith, legal counsel for the defendants, asked the court to dismiss the case due to certain technicalities.

Smith said the defendants were not properly served the summons and complaint.

He also argued that the complaint must be dismissed because it was filed too late, based on the six-year statute of limitations. He noted that Hofschneider wrote a letter to NMC on June 15, 1998 submitting his resignation. However, he waited until June 15, 2004 to file his complaint.

"Therefore his complaint was filed six years and one day after his cause of action arose. Because Hofschneider did not file his complaint within the six-year period his claims are barred," Smith said.

In his order, Judge Naraja agreed there is genuine issue with the two points raised by Smith. He added that the main reason he was dismissing the case was Hofschneider's failure to appear at either of the two hearings—on Oct. 13 and on Nov. 17—that the court scheduled to hear the motion to dismiss.

"In light of the fact that the plaintiff may have failed to meet the six-year statute of limitations, may have failed to effect proper service on one or more of the defendants, and is now no longer even showing up for his scheduled hearings, the court finds that the plaintiff is not diligently prosecuting this matter," Naraja said. "Therefore the court believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss this case."

recorded by the CADA for the same period last year.

Toyota remains the top-selling brand, with its 697 sales jumping from last year's 469. Nissan follows next with 206 units, and then Mazda and Mitsubishi, 150 and 114 units.

CADA statistics showed the total sales of Honda, Kia and Ford brands close at 82, 78 and 76, respectively. Hyundai's sales reached 63, inching slightly ahead of last year's total of 62.

Hyundai's improved sales of nine vehicles last month compared with November 2003's only one unit helped it surpass last year's total sales from January to November.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to all freedom-loving people of the NMI

The holidays are fast approaching; we have just counted our blessings. We have much to be thankful for.

For some of us in our community, young kids did not see “Daddy” around at Thanksgiving and he probably won’t be here to receive and carry the Niño Jesus into their homes on Christmas Day. All because of a war in Iraq that has come to disrupt the lives of families on these small pieces of islands in the Northern Mariana Islands.

But for all of us who do not have to go to Iraq to fight a war, let us be generous. Let us explain to our children the true meaning of giving this year and help assist those in Echo Company who cannot afford to bring their love ones home for Christmas. Let us give, any amount, big or small, to assist defray the cost for airfare from Texas to Saipan and their return to Texas for our over 100 troops from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

There is no organization presently established. I am starting this on my own so I need volunteers and donors. Please find it in your hearts to give a little of something, maybe cancel the case of beer that you planned for Christmas Day, and give that amount of money so that the children of Echo Company will see Daddy receive and bring into their homes the blessings of Nino Jesus on Christmas Day.

I could be reached at gkilili@gtepacific.net if you wish to volunteer your time or make a donation. Other names will be announced soon. Time is very, very short so please respond. Any amount will help.

For all freedom loving people, I remain,

Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili)
Garapan, Saipan

Note: All donations should be forwarded to either former presiding judge Edward Manibusan or Galvin Guerrero. Judge Manibusan could be reached at emlaw@vzpacifica.net and Galvin Guerrero could be reached at galvin@itecnmi.com. Donations by check should be written out to Edward Manibusan. Thank you.

CUC

First class or Third World? You choose

It is encouraging to see DEQ’s stepped up efforts regarding littering. In view of the large number of people who have ignored court summonses for littering, it is apparent that a lot of people still regard the problem as a joke, but I’m sure that once word of \$500 fines starts getting around, people will take littering a lot more seriously. Littering has a tremendous negative effect on this island, and I think that, with minimal cost, anti-littering efforts can be much more effective. How much would it cost to pay overtime for a couple of DEQ enforcement personnel to hide in the bushes at the old Koblerville runway on a Saturday, armed with a video camera? The efforts of community groups to clean up litter are commendable and should be encouraged, but picking up after slobes is not the long-term answer.

Another noteworthy development is the proposed legislation to crack down on prostitutes and their pimps in Garapan. A new arrival on Saipan recently expressed his amazement to me at the blatant solicitation that goes on here. How about expanding the legislation to include ALL solicitation for ALL businesses. I have been to Mexico several times but really have no desire to return. Having someone shove something to buy in you face every five minutes really takes the fun out of visiting a place. Las Vegas is no better, of course, with flyers for shows, strippers, and real estate being directed at you every 10 steps as you walk down the street. I’m sure most tourists to Saipan have no desire to be “touted” either.

Finally, how about junked cars? It seemed like we were making progress a few years ago, but the problem is getting serious again.

It’s about time that we make up our minds if we want the CNMI to be an attractive place to live and visit, or just another Third World location with a beach.

Herminia Matsumoto Fusco
Capitol Hill

SHELL VISOR

Letters to the Editor

Face the facts Thomas

Tina simply wants to see that the best returns and benefits are realized through transparency—not secrecy—when dealing with public lands and resources at the expense of the indigenous people of CNMI. Nevertheless, you need not be indigenous or have a vested interest in the Trust to be concerned or alarmed and raise the issues that Tina did. The greatest of documents were created in the open. Something this significant should not be treated lightly and with such secrecy, especially when it involves the lives of people, the environment, adjoining ocean, reefs, plants and animals. A reasonable person would not intentionally hide something that would affect the lives of present and future generations.

The five-member MPLA board has fiduciary duties and responsibilities to uphold CNMI laws and protect and promote the interests of the indigenous people of CNMI. Each member is indigenous and must answer to the landowners—the indigenous people of the CNMI.

Azmar did not comply with the indigenous people’s requests and requirements through MPLA, its legal representative, to submit all pertinent documents within the allotted time. By admission, Azmar met with CNMI politicians in California and Arizona in picnic-like functions, discussed Pagan mining and shared food and drinks purchased by Azmar agents or representatives. This is unethical and against Office of the Public Auditor rules and regulations for public servants. Azmar designed an employment contract that contains a clause that would violate CNMI laws. This illegal employment contract has been seen and admitted to exist.

Moore’s Marauders was planned and designed to remove CNMI historical artifacts from Pagan and elsewhere through special operations by military veterans. Several members of Moore’s Marauders refused to follow through with the plan for obvious reasons. It’s illegal. Ask Gargas and Aradaza. Here’s a quote about Azmar’s financial capabilities: “How in the world is anyone defending Azmar as a financially responsible/capable investor/developer with this crap going on? If the guy won’t pay these miniscule items, what do they think will happen when he owes MPLA or anyone else sums in the millions!”

Azmar offered seven cents per dollar for the indigenous people of the CNMI. Yes, 7 cents per dollar and they keep 93 cents per dollar. Azmar’s offer to pay one or two of its agents 40 cents for every ton of pozzolan sold plus \$75,000 per year is more generous when compared to what the landowners—indigenous people of CNMI—will be getting. The current offer is now at 15 cents per dollar. Lucrative? The following facts would erase any and all hope of economic rescue for CNMI as lauded.

JG Sablan’s interest in Pagan cannot be just simply moved to the side and ignored. JG Sablan has legal rights—due process—including lease rights, like it or not. It would also not be prudent for JG Sablan to join Azmar for lack of accord.

Azmar is not a mining company and has no mining experience. Azmar tried to use a real mining company and pozzolan buyer (Caer) to finance its venture but that particular company withdrew its support. Why? Azmar claimed that it has secured mining rights in Pagan. This is not true. Azmar listed on a website that it markets or sells pozzolan as one of its products. This is false. Azmar is a speculator, a middleman. Middlemen receive payment or commission by buying, selling and/or receiving a portion of sales of property or products.

MPLA should hire an independent firm to test the quality and quantity of pozzolan in Pagan. MPLA should hire an independent marketing company to assess and market the pozzolan. MPLA should find, through the bidding process, the most qualified mining company with the best offer, the best return and benefits for the people they represent.

Thomas, Pagan is not a barren and inhospitable island. There is more to it than meets the eye. You can tell the Egyptians and Bedouins that their desert is barren and inhospitable. You might find yourself dying in the sun and, at high noon, would appreciate a drop of juice from a young coconut in your last hours. Pagan is far from being barren or inhospitable and the coconut trees are worth much more than your senses are capable of discerning.

A barren land is the farthest thing from being worthless or a good enough reason to discard it into the wind. For us indigenous people, it is best left alone than to mess with it and ruin it. We can wait until there is someone honest, fair and capable of mining and can implement measures to protect the fragile environment.

Thomas, I have no patience for opinions that lack foundation. Go back to the simple rules of case analysis. And one more thing, we live here! “Where your heart is, your mouth speaks.” You have little or no connection to our lands and sea. Your paycheck is your best connection.

If it could not be done right, let Pagan sit forever! No harm would be done if it is left alone a little longer and it would still be there for generations to come. Using our economic situation as an excuse to justify stealing from our children their birthright is not an option.

Face the facts. Genuine scientists value empirical data, not soiled, biased opinions from partial minds. And it’s good practice to reconnoiter an opening in a cave before sticking your head inside. Always gather your facts first. Barring the social institutions that molded you, perhaps you ought to remove the splinters in your eyes so your vision would not be so impaired.

Here’s something to think about: You are going fishing next season with Tina and members of Pagan Watch. Would you like to negotiate the terms and conditions in secret on how to split the costs and share the catch? Including the destination? Only a fool would agree to this. Under the circumstances, it would not be prudent for you to even negotiate, much less go fishing. This is analogous to the current situation between Azmar, MPLA and the indigenous people of the CNMI. The indigenous people’s interests are at risk.

Thomas, all public lands belong to the indigenous people of the CNMI, whether you like it or not. MPLA knows it and so does MPLT and the courts, local and federal.

Ray Mafnas
Matansa, Saipan

Si Yu’us Ma’ase Rep. Guerrero

We would like to publicly thank Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero for his great public service for the residents of Laolao, including us.

For a long time, our biggest problem has been our unpaved, rugged road, which has proven to be impassable, especially during heavy rains.

Congressman Guerrero has been very kind to accommodate our request to fix the road. He responds every time we call him for help.

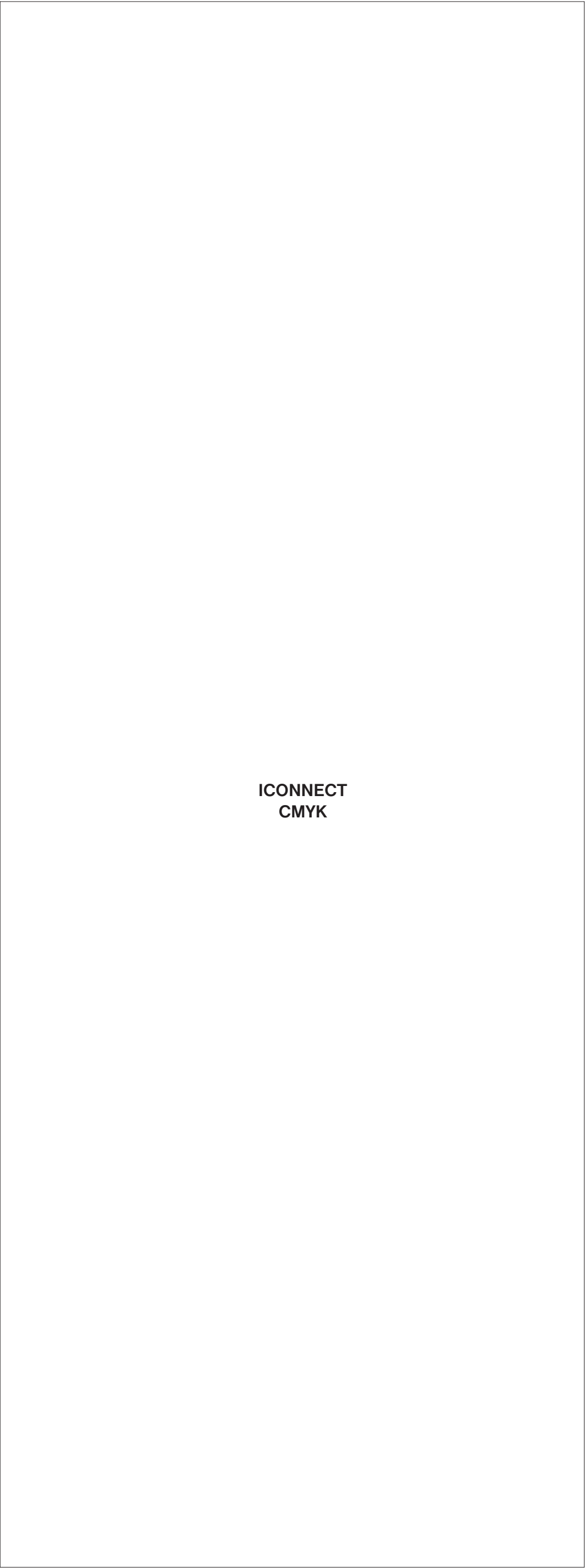
Laolao road is a public road that leads to the popular Laolao Beach. We were told that it’s under the jurisdiction of the mayor’s office, but repeated calls to the office proved futile.

Thank you, congressman Guerrero, for looking into our situation. Thank you for your good heart. You don’t know how much you make us feel relieved. We appreciate your kindness.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramona
and Jesus Dela Cruz
Laolao, Saipan

SHELL STAMP

Business



ICONNECT
CMYK

MVA launches 'Bisita Marianas' campaign



With efforts to boost travel within the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently invited several Guam travel agents to the launch party of the Bisita Marianas campaign held Friday, Nov. 26, at the Pacific Islands Club, Guam.

The Bisita Marianas campaign started on Dec. 1, 2004 and will continue throughout the coming year, ending on Dec. 31, 2005.

On Sept. 4, 2003, Gov. Juan Babauta of the CNMI and Gov. Felix Camacho of Guam adopted a resolution to establish a relationship between the National Tourist Offices of both destinations.

MVA and the Guam Visitors Bureau attested the adoption of the resolution for the establishment of joint efforts in promotion, marketing, and economic development, resulting in the implementation of a marketing plan to promote and stimulate inter-island travel within the Marianas—Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

With the common bond shared between the CNMI and Guam, the MVA will aggressively encourage travel from Guam to the Northern Marianas—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The campaign name 'Bisita Marianas,' which means Visit our Marianas' is ideal for this type of promotion. We anticipate an increase of visitor traffic from the Guam market to include local and military residents. The launch party was well received by the participating agents, together with the airlines. The MVA will main-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The MVA participants to the Bisita Marianas launch party take a group photo after the success of the evening program. From left to right, Vicky Benavente, MVA managing director; Alejo Mendiola, MVA Rota assistant marketing manager; Laloulu Henry, entertainer; Hiroko Tenorio, MVA marketing specialist; Chris Kaipat, entertainer; Yoichi Matsumura, MVA director; Glenda Calvo, MVA marketing specialist; and Wayne Pangelinan, MVA marketing manager.

tain a close working relationship with the agents and airlines for the success of this campaign" said MVA managing director Vicky Benavente.

The Bisita Marianas campaign requires a purchase of an airline ticket showing a two-night stay in the Northern Marianas—Saipan, Tinian, or Rota with a Marianas Value-Pak provided by participating travel agencies who sell the CNMI.

Participating Guam travel agents include PACTOURS, Travellers Unlimited, First Class Travel, Travel Pacificana, and Andersen Leisure. Airlines that provide service to the Marianas are Continental Airlines, Pacific Island Aviation, and Freedom Air.

For more information on the Bisita Marianas campaign, contact the marketing division of the MVA at (670) 664-3200 or by facsimile to (670) 664-3237.

MVA takes part in Taiwan's largest travel fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently participated at the Taiwan International Travel Fair in Taipei. The MVA jointly promoted the destination and the new direct flights with Continental Airlines, Dai Ichi Hotel, and Century Tours.

The MVA delegation included acting deputy managing director Martin Duenas and marketing manager Wayne Pangelinan.

With over 114,000 visitors and over 740 exhibitor booths, this year's show has increased by 23 percent overall from previous year.

"With the resurgence of flights from Continental airlines to the CNMI, the MVA will provide the necessary support to capture a fair market share of travelers from Taipei," said Pangelinan. "Diversifying our travel markets is key to the survival of the islands' tourism industry."

Taiwan has a population of over 23 million. The traveling population is estimated to be a third of the total population.

"We see that this market has potential for the CNMI, and therefore, it is imperative that we build a strong partnership

with the airline, travel agents and businesses on island to prepare for this new market," said MVA managing director Vicky Benavente.

Continental Airlines sponsored a press conference in Taipei, Taiwan, in October, to announce the launch of the flights to Saipan. This resulted in immense coverage of the islands from the Taiwan media. Additionally, the MVA will be supporting the Taiwan direct flights with advertising, PR events, familiarization tours, and travel/trade shows.

The Northern Marianas has

seen this market flourish in the early 90s with the first direct Continental flight service in 1992. With the service, the Northern Marianas welcomed more than 11,000 Taiwan visitors in 1992 and 1993. However, due to the termination of the direct service and the travel without US visa regulation, the Northern Marianas has since then seen a steady decline in this market. With the launch of Continental Airlines' Taiwan/Saipan direct flights, the MVA is optimistic that it will see an increase in visitors from this market and the airlines.

Verizon Star Cruiser at Hollywood

Theaters tomorrow

Planning on buying a cell phone for the holidays but don't have the time to drop by the Verizon customer service during regular working hours? Then drop by the Hollywood Theaters tomorrow and get your ideal cell phone while watching a movie.

Verizon said that its Verizon Star Cruiser will be at the Hollywood Theaters, right next to Price Costco, on Saturday, from 6pm to 9:30pm.

This is your chance to check out some of the coolest prepaid cellular phones and to stock up on those calling cards for the holidays.

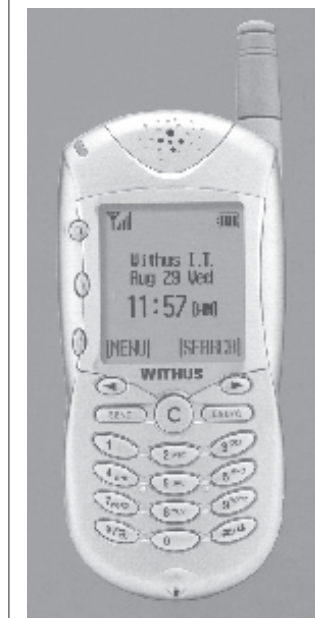
Back by popular demand, the popular Modotell and Kyocera 2235 cell phones will be on special for only \$59.99. This deal includes a \$10 calling card, a car charger, and a leather case.

"During the last After Hours Sale, the Modotell was the most popular phone in Verizon's stable of phones. If you were not able to drop by then, this is your chance to get in on the action and check out what everyone is getting for the holidays," said Russ Quinn, Verizon's marketing manager.

Verizon will also be holding a promotion inside the theaters. Free gifts will be given away that evening so catch a movie at Hollywood Theaters to see if you win a prize. Free gifts range from Verizon baseball caps, t-shirts, brand new cell phones, and more.

"Hollywood Theaters is where you want to be this Saturday night!" the company said in a statement.

For more information about the Verizon Star Cruiser or if you would like to find out more about the different cellular phones that are offered at Verizon, call 234-7143 or visit www.vzpacific.net.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2004	17
SAIPAN TRIBUNE	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004	19
SAIPAN TRIBUNE	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004	21
SAIPAN TRIBUNE	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004	25
SAIPAN TRIBUNE	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004	31
SAIPAN TRIBUNE	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004	33

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US to expand military force in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is expanding its military force in Iraq to the highest level of the war—even higher than during the initial invasion in March 2003—in order to bolster security in advance of next month’s national elections.

The 12,000-troop increase is to last only until March, but it says much about the strength and resiliency of an insurgency that U.S. military planners did not foresee when Baghdad was toppled in April 2003.

Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, deputy operations director of the Joint Staff, told reporters Wednesday that the American force will expand from 138,000 troops today to about 150,000 by January.

The previous high for the U.S. force in Iraq was 148,000 on May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations were over and most soldiers thought the war had been won. The initial invasion force included thousands of sailors on ships in the Persian Gulf and other waters, plus tens of thousands of troops in Kuwait and other surrounding countries.

The expansion in Iraq will be achieved by sending about 1,500 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., this month and by extending the combat tours of about 10,400 troops already in Iraq. Those 10,400 will be extras until March because the soldiers who were scheduled to replace them in January will arrive as planned.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld approved the moves

Wednesday, according to a Pentagon statement.

“They are the most experienced and best-qualified forces to sustain the momentum of post-Fallujah operations and to provide for additional security for the upcoming elections,” the statement said.

The Pentagon originally expected to train and equip enough Iraqi government forces to fill the security gap in the weeks leading up to the elections, but that hope was not fulfilled.

The military is reluctant to extend soldiers’ combat tours because of the potential negative effect it could have on their families, and thus on their willingness to remain in the service. In this case, Gen. George Casey, the most senior U.S. commander in Iraq, decided it was necessary to keep up pressure on the insurgents while also providing security for the elections.

One unit, the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, is being extended for the second time. Its soldiers originally were told they would be going home in November at the end of a 10-month assignment, but in October they got the news that they would remain until mid-January. Now they are being extended until mid-March.

The 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry and most of the other extended units will end up serving about 14 months in Iraq, exceeding by two months the 12-month standard set by the Army.

Rodriguez listed these unit extensions:

- About 4,400 troops of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry



A U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry soldier pursues insurgents during a gun battle in Mosul, Iraq, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004.

Division, which is operating in north-central Iraq, will stay until mid-March, instead of departing in early January. Those soldiers’ home bases are mostly in Hawaii.

- About 3,500 soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry, will be extended until March. These are the soldiers who originally were told they would be leaving Iraq in November.
- About 2,300 members of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, based in Okinawa, Japan and in Hawaii, and California, will stay until mid-March instead of leaving in January.
- About 160 soldiers of the 66th Transportation Company, based in Germany, was due to depart Iraq in early January but instead will stay until early March.

The 82nd Airborne is generally relied upon by the Army to keep one of its three brigades on short-notice alert year-round to deploy abroad in the event of a crisis. Shortly before the October elections in Afghanistan, about 600 members of the 82nd Airborne were sent there to strengthen security.

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Bush seeks Canada's help in Iraq, Mideast

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP)—President Bush asked Canadians on Wednesday to move beyond their deep opposition to the Iraq war and get behind his vision of democracies blooming from Baghdad to the West Bank.

"Sometimes even the closest of friends disagree, and two years ago we disagreed about the course of action in Iraq," Bush said, standing at the side of Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

But, Bush said, "there is no disagreement at all with what has to be done in going forward. We must help the Iraqi people secure their country and build a free and democratic society."

On a bridge-building trip to America's northern neighbor, Bush conceded that the United States can be a difficult "elephant" to live next to but delivered a forceful defense of his approach to combatting terrorism.

"We must take the fight to them, we must be relentless and we must be steadfast in our duty to protect our people," he said.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien refused to send Canadian troops to Iraq, and polls show more than 80 percent of Canadians still support that decision.

Bush's visit to this port city was linked to the Sept. 11 at-

tacks, the defining event of his presidency and the spark for his eventual decision to invade Iraq.

On the day of the terror attacks against New York and Washington in 2001, some 33,000 passengers on airplanes bound for U.S. airports were diverted to Canadian provinces, including Nova Scotia.

"These were places that many aboard had never heard of. They are now places that few of the passengers will ever forget," Martin said.

Bush offered a belated thank you, and used the moment to seek a fresh start with Canadians.

"For days after Sept. 11, Canadians came to the aid of men and women and children who were worried and confused and had nowhere to sleep," the president said inside the Port 21 Museum, a historic site that was for decades a gateway for immigration and troop movements.

"You opened your homes and your churches to strangers, you brought food, you set up clinics, you arranged for calls to their loved ones, and you asked for nothing in return," the president said.

"Thank you for your kindness to America in an hour of need."

"Beyond the words of politicians and the natural disagreements that nations will have, our two peoples are one family and



U.S. President Bush delivers his foreign policy speech at Pier 21, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004.

always will be," he said.

Reminders of the disagreements were just outside.

A couple of hundred protesters chanted anti-Bush slogans and held signs that read, "PM (Prime Minister) don't make deals with the devil," "Terror-

ists go home" and "Tanks for nothing."

Bush's audience sat mostly in silence as he called on Canadians and other allies to join him in "great goals," each of them relating to terrorism and each long ingrained in Bush policy.

First, he said, America and close friends such as Canada must make sure institutions such as the United Nations are "more relevant and more effective in meeting the unique threats of our time."

Second, governments must throw every resource at combating terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, he said. On this point, Bush threw in a pitch for the missile shield his administration is working on—an effort Canada is considering joining. Later, Martin said Canada will not support the plan if it means putting weapons in space, but he also said he didn't know exactly what Bush had in mind.

Last, the United States and allies can "enhance our own security by promoting freedom and hope and democracy in the broader Middle East."

Bush singled out his long-standing goal of a new, democratic Palestinian state coexisting peacefully with Israel, and he dismissed past efforts to nibble at the troubles there with small-scale negotiations over borders and settlement sites.

"This approach has been tried before without success," Bush said. "The Palestinian people deserve a peaceful government that truly serves their interests, and the Israeli people need a true partner in peace."

Peterson's dad describes good-natured son

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP)—Scott Peterson's father took the stand Wednesday in the penalty phase of his son's murder trial and described a friendly boy who sang at a senior citizens' home on Sundays, tutored young students, and distributed clothes and food in Tijuana.

"You don't know who Scott Peterson is, and it's going to be our job to show you," defense lawyer Pat Harris said on the second day of testimony in the penalty phase of Peterson's trial.

"What we're going to now show you is the 30 years that preceded this. And when we show you those 30 years, I believe that you will agree that this is a life worth saving."

The attempt to humanize Peterson came a day after Laci Peterson's mother cried on the stand and screamed at her former son-in-law as prosecutors urged jurors to sentence him to death. Jurors must decide between execution and life in prison without parole.

Lee Peterson said his daughter-in-law's death and the subsequent trial of his son have taken a heavy emotional toll.

"I'm frightened, deeply saddened," he said, looking tired on the witness stand. "Losing someone you love and now having our son in such jeopardy - it's just beyond belief."

As an infant, he said, Scott Peterson became ill with pneumonia and was placed in a plastic chamber - called a croup tent - that controls humidity.

"It was very risky. The doctor said this may not go so well, but he pulled out of it and he lived," Lee Peterson said.

He recalled a toddler who was always smiling, enjoyed playing with trucks and action figures, and liked to snuggle while his father read to him.

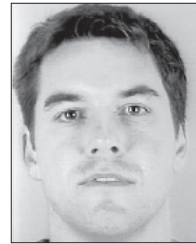
His son grew into a good student, and captained his high school golf team and dreamed of a

pro golf career, Lee Peterson said. He sang to senior citizens, tutored and gave to the poor in Tijuana.

Lee Peterson described his son as motivated and full of energy: "You wouldn't catch him laying around in bed."

The day's testimony was in stark contrast to Tuesday, when Laci's mother, Sharon Rocha, alternated between tears and outbursts, at times directly addressing her former son-in-law, saying, "She wanted to be a mother. That was taken away from her."

Lee Peterson's testimony was somber, and he conceded that by nature he does not readily show emotion. He and his son exchanged brief glances.



Peterson

England in court on Iraqi abuse charges

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP)—Lawyers for Pfc. Lynndie England moved Wednesday to throw out statements she made when first questioned about Iraqi prisoner abuse, including that reservists were just "joking around, having some fun."

The motion was one of five taken up by military judge Col. Stephen Henley in a hearing in advance of England's Jan. 18 court-martial on abuse charges stemming from photos of her pointing and smiling at naked detainees at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

Paul Arthur, an Army special investigator, testified that England was aware of her rights, including to have a lawyer present, when she was interviewed for more than four hours early the morning of Jan. 14—three months before the photos became public.

Arthur testified that England was brought in for questioning—without a lawyer present—because investigators had obtained several pictures of her, including the now-infamous shot of her holding a naked detainee by a leash.

He said England was cooperative and did not appear fearful, and if she had asked for a lawyer he would have ended the interview. At the end of the questioning, he said, she wrote and signed a statement detailing her actions.

In a hearing this summer, Arthur said England told him the reservists took the photos while "they were joking around, having some fun, during the night shift."

Arthur said he believed the reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company were responding to the stress of being in a war zone. But when asked if that assessment applied to England, Arthur replied: "She never mentioned that she was frustrated. She said it was more for fun."

England, a 21-year-old reservist from Fort Ashby, W.Va., was one of seven members of the Maryland-based 372nd charged with humiliating and assaulting prisoners at the Baghdad prison. She became a focal point of the scandal after the photos surfaced.

During testimony at a pre-trial hearing, defense attorneys maintained that England was being used as a scapegoat for a military run amok.

England has said she and the others were following orders from military intelligence operatives to "soften up" prisoners for interrogations.

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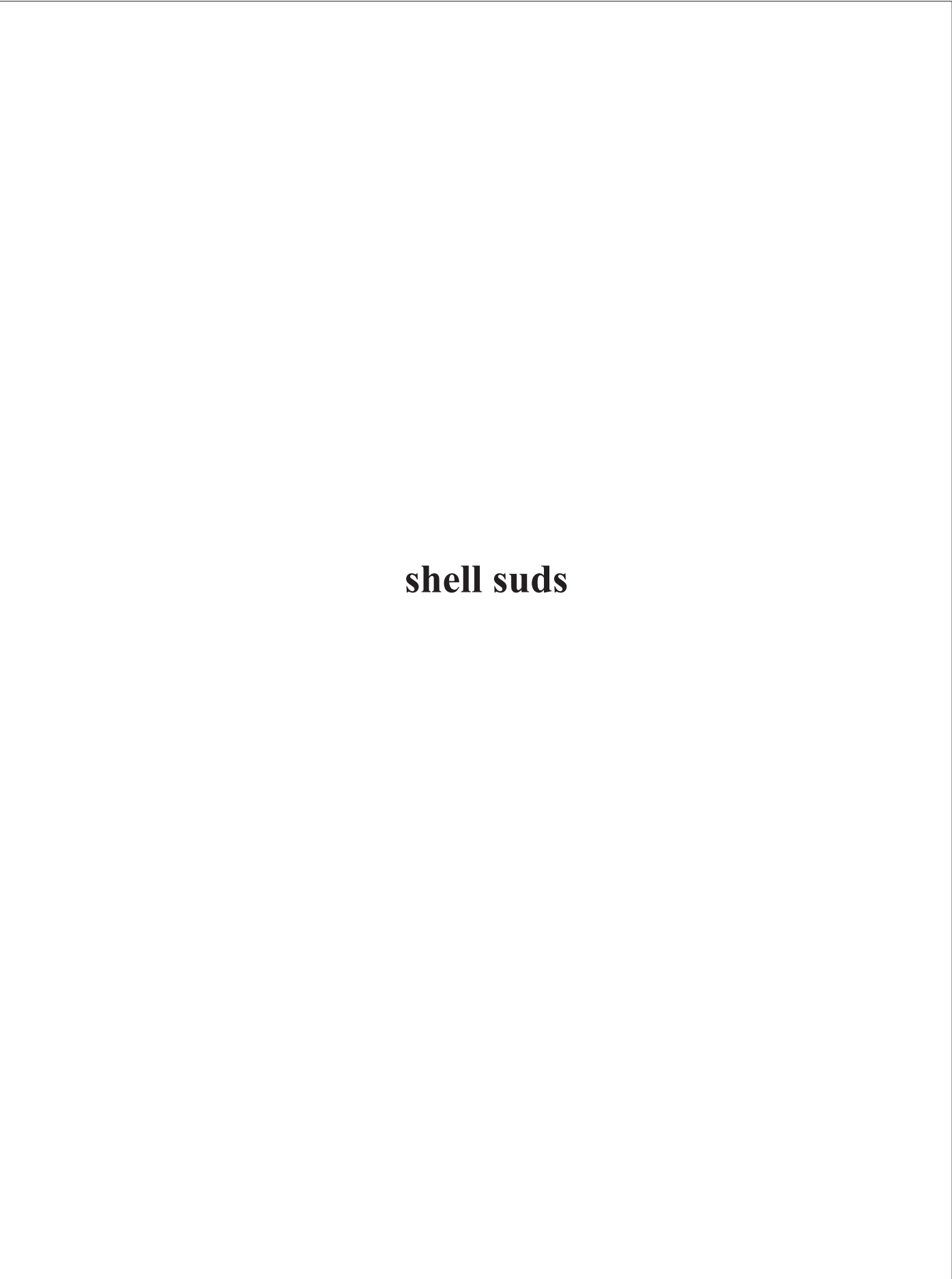
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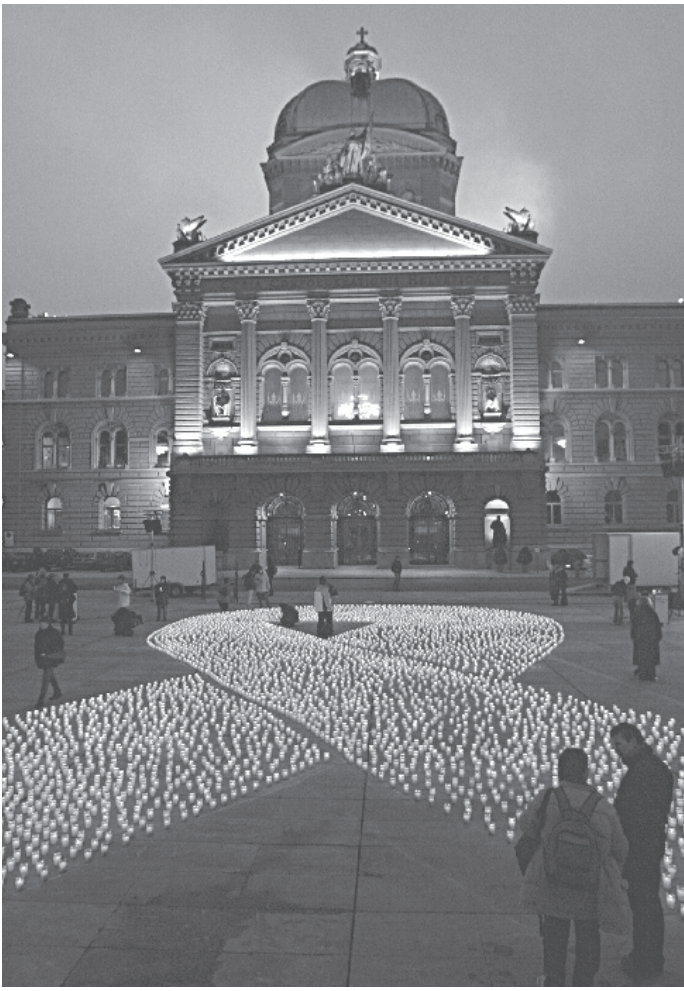
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AIDS Day is observed around the globe



Organized by different Swiss aid organizations 6,000 candles, forming a ribbon, the symbol for solidarity with Aids patients, are lit on the Federation Square (Bundesplatz) in front of the government's building in Bern, Switzerland, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004, on the occasion of the World Aids Day.

GENEVA (AP)—From Armenia to Zambia, thousands of activists turned out to sing in mighty cathedrals, light candles in city squares and march and hold dance-athons on World AIDS Day as the United Nations focused on protecting women and girls, often sidelined in the fight against the disease.

Nearly half the 39.4 million people infected with HIV worldwide are female. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said three-quarters of all HIV-positive women live in sub-Saharan Africa. About 57 percent of the adults with HIV are women, he said.

"The number of women living with HIV is on the rise in every region. Today the face of AIDS is increasingly young and female," said Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS.

"Prevention methods such as the ABC approach—Abstinence, Be faithful and use Condoms—are good, but not enough to protect women where gender inequality is pervasive," he said.

Laws must be passed against domestic abuse and rape and to make sure women have property rights because that will make them more secure and "far less vulnerable to HIV," Piot said.

"We must be able to ensure that women can choose marriage, to decide when and with whom they have sex and to successfully negotiate condom use."

In Asia, where the disease claimed 540,000 lives this year, campaigners in Japan and South Korea handed out condoms. Thailand, Vietnam, and Bangladesh had marches, and the Philippines promoted HIV testing.

China ordered local officials to learn about the disease and televised a rare visit by President Hu Jintao to AIDS patients in a hospital.

With an estimated 840,000 infected with HIV, China has been criticized for reacting too slowly to the threat of AIDS. The United Nations has warned that China could have as many as 10 mil-

lion people infected by 2010 if it doesn't take urgent action.

In southern Africa, red ribbons were tied to lamp posts and draped over buildings to promote AIDS awareness.

In a cricket match against India, South African players wore the ribbons. Zambians gathered for a candlelight memorial service in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in their capital, Lusaka. Soccer matches in Botswana were dedicated to the campaign.

"HIV/AIDS is not God's punishment of the wicked," Anglican Archbishop Njongkulu Ndungane of South Africa said, appealing for tolerance. "AIDS is a preventable, treatable and manageable disease—no more, no less."

Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika said he wants at least 1 million of his 11 million people tested for HIV so his government can determine how many need anti-retroviral treatment.

"We want to have 80,000 people on ARVs by the end of 2005," he said. That would be nearly 10 times the number of Malawians now receiving free treatment.

Eastern Europe, where AIDS figures have jumped since the collapse of the Soviet Union, joined in the observance.

Serbia-Montenegro had live radio and television programs to increase awareness of how the disease spreads. In the Croatian capital, Zagreb, activists handed out condoms and sold Christmas cards made by AIDS-infected children.

Powell condemns Haiti political violence

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Heavy gunfire rang out near Haiti's presidential palace Wednesday as Secretary of State Colin Powell prepared to meet with the country's interim leaders. He denounced the violence as the work of thugs.

Powell said international peacekeeping troops need to come down hard on street toughs and those who carry out political violence in Haiti.

"They have to forcefully take on those armed individuals of the kind who were firing this morning," Powell said after meetings at the National Palace with President Boniface Alexandre, Prime Minister Gerard Latortue and other political leaders.

Haiti is still beset with violence and political infighting as

the one-year anniversary of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's ouster approaches in February. The country's caretaker government has pledged open elections next fall, a goal Powell said Haiti can meet with outside help.

"The only outcome that will satisfy the U.S. is an election next year that is free and fair, ... that is not fraudulent and stolen," Powell said later in his one-day trip to shore up democratic efforts in the desperately poor country.

The United States, and Powell in particular, have been instigural in Haiti's chaotic power shifts over the past decade. Powell was once an Aristide supporter but helped arrange Aristide's exile this year.

"I'm deeply saddened the

opportunity that was given to Mr. Aristide a decade ago was wasted," Powell said Wednesday. "But the Haitian people have a new opportunity."

Aristide and others claim the Bush administration coerced him to leave. Aristide's followers say Powell signed onto a plan to remove Aristide because he was viewed as a troublemaker whose unpopularity could destabilize Haiti and cause a tide of refugees to head for U.S. shores.

The administration says Aristide departed voluntarily.

Details of the palace shooting were unclear. Gunshots, including several long bursts of automatic weapons fire, were heard in front of the palace shortly after Powell entered with a small U.S. delegation.

UN reports Rwandan troops in Congo

GOMA, Congo (AP)—U.N. observers encountered what they believed to be about 100 Rwandan troops in eastern Congo, a U.N. official said Wednesday, marking the first reported U.N. sightings since Rwanda threatened to send in its forces against Rwanda Hutu rebels sheltering here.

The suspected Rwandan forces withdrew toward Rwanda after Tuesday's encounter, said M'hand Ladjouzi, head of the U.N. mission at Goma. He spoke at a news conference in Goma, the largest city of the east.

A Rwandan diplomat denied Rwanda had invaded again, after a week of warnings that raised fears of a return to the six-nation war that devastated Congo, Africa's third-largest nation.

But the denial came even as a Western envoy in Kinshasa, Congo's capital, said Rwandan President Paul Kagame warned that Rwandan troops would carry out "surgical strikes" against rebels in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

In the letter, which circulated among embassies in Congo

on Wednesday, Kagame said military operations would last two weeks, according to the envoy, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

U.N. officials in Kinshasa said they had no knowledge of the letter.

Congo, meanwhile, asked the U.N. Security Council to meet in emergency session to condemn Rwanda's threat and impose sanctions finding Kagame "personally responsible for the threat posted to the sovereignty of Congo and to the entire peace process in the region."

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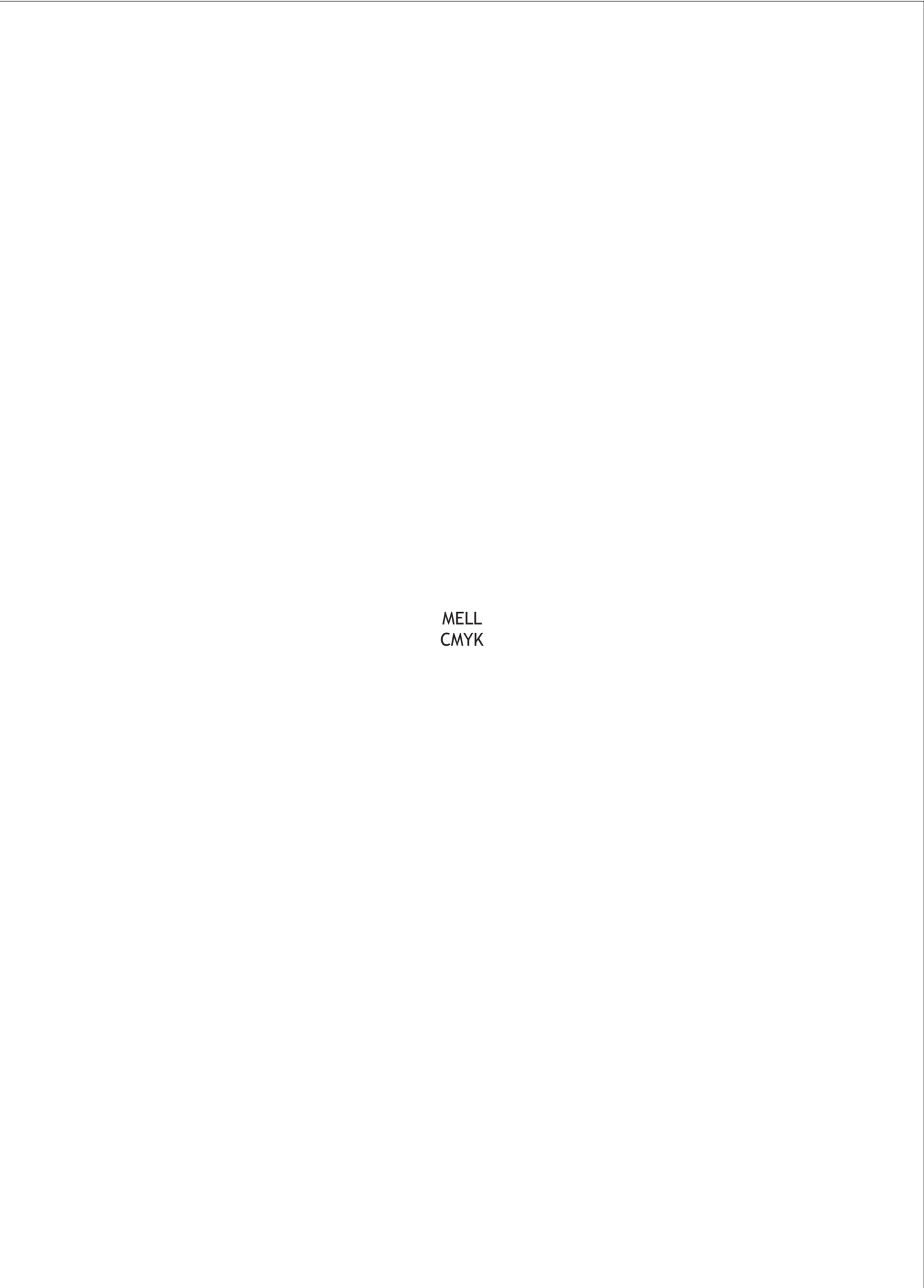


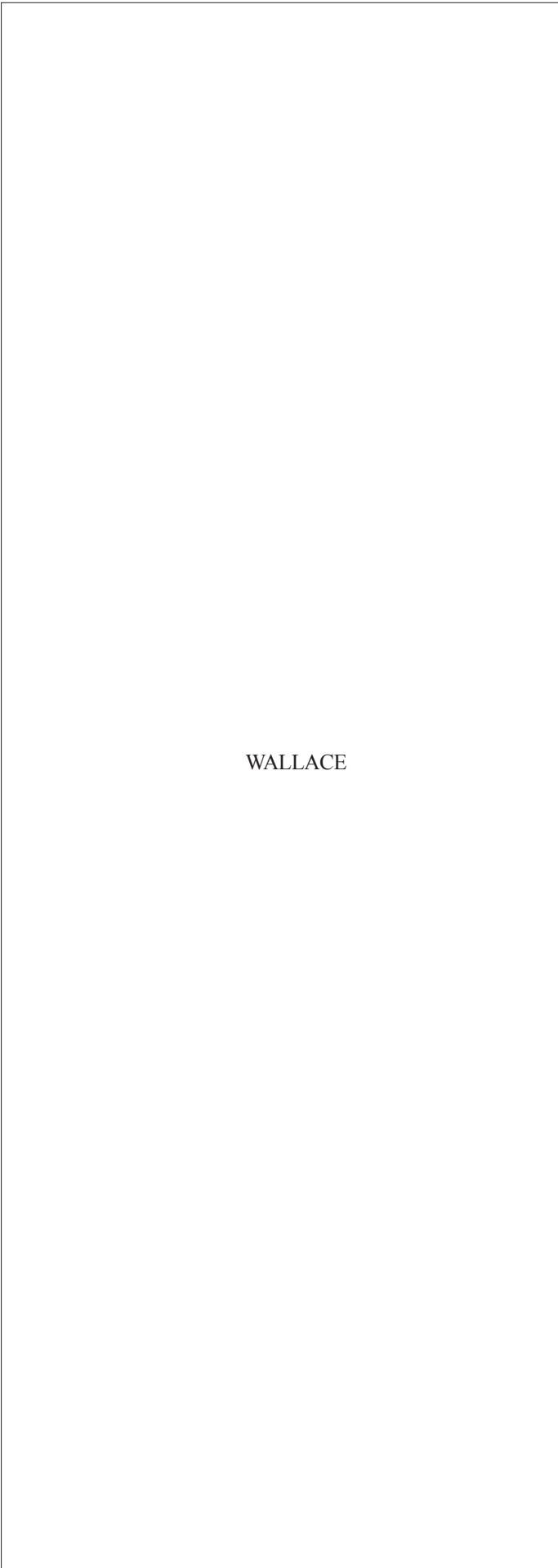
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Life & Style





WALLACE

Brokaw signs off from 'NBC Nightly News'

NEW YORK (AP)—After bringing viewers the news for nearly 23 years, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw signed off Wednesday expressing gratitude for what he got in return.

"Thanks for all that I have learned from you," he said at the end of his final "Nightly News" broadcast, his voice wavering just a bit. "That's been my richest reward."

Brokaw reminded his audience how "we've been through a lot together, through dark days and nights, and seasons of hope and joy."

"Whatever the story, I had only one objective: to get it right," he said, adding he was "always mindful that your patience and attention didn't come with a lifetime warranty."

Making good on an exit plan announced in May 2002, Brokaw, 64, is stepping away from daily journalism to pursue his varied other interests, including more time on his Montana ranch. But his NBC association will continue under an agreement to host at least three documentaries a year.

And if a huge story breaks, "I'll report for duty," he told The Associated Press recently. "It doesn't mean I'll go back to what I did before. They'll have to find a new role for me."

While Brokaw was saying his good-byes, Peter Jennings was praising him on ABC as "a competitor in the best sense, which in our trade means, when he beats us on a story, it is usually the result of enterprise."

Over on CBS, Dan Rather said, "For more than 30 years, I have known Tom as friend and competitor who has earned the respect of his audience, and his colleagues, myself included." Then to Brian Williams, Rather added, "Welcome to the neighborhood."

Williams, long groomed as Brokaw's successor, takes over "Nightly News"

with Thursday's broadcast. He begins at the top of the ratings, where "Nightly News" has reigned since 1997.

Brokaw's departure has been the object of ceremony the past few days, both from the press at large and on his own network, which last week aired a two-hour Brokaw retrospective on "Dateline NBC."

Wednesday morning, he appeared on "Today," which he once anchored, for a tribute (and a champagne toast) from current hosts Katie Couric and Matt Lauer, who paraphrased a familiar song: "Nobody does it better and no one ever has."

"Even as we speak," Brokaw joked during the segment, "people are changing the name plate on my door."

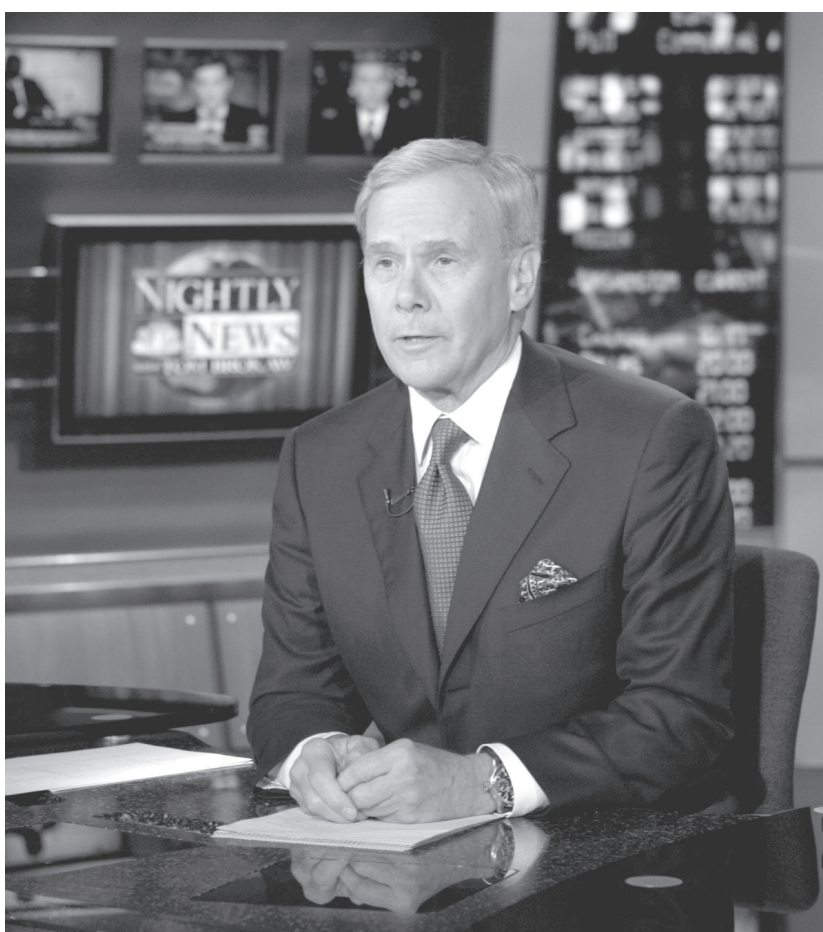
The much-awaited shift at NBC was briefly upstaged last week by the surprise announcement that Rather would be departing "The CBS Evening News" anchor chair in March, after 24 years. (No successor to the 73-year-old Rather, who will continue on "60 Minutes," has yet been named.)

Those changes, after two decades of stability, will leave only ABC's Peter Jennings among the old-timers.

Brokaw, a South Dakota native who joined NBC in 1966, was White House correspondent from 1973-76, encompassing the Watergate years. He anchored "Today" from 1976-81.

He began his "Nightly News" run in April 1982, sharing the anchor title with Roger Mudd, who reported from Washington in a partnership that NBC brass hoped would revive the glory years of the Huntley-Brinkley team.

It didn't, either with ratings or chemistry between Mudd and Brokaw. In September 1983, Brokaw emerged as solo anchor—just days after Jennings began soloing on ABC's "World News Tonight."



NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw delivers his his last broadcast, in New York Wednesday Dec. 1, 2004.

As Brokaw marked his 30th anniversary with NBC in 1996, he recalled the precipitous ups and downs at the network where he stuck it out and prospered.

"I never expected the waves would be quite as steep as they were," he admitted. "But even in the worst of times, it was better than anything I thought I'd ever have in life."

During a most chaotic era—in 1981, with NBC's prime-time ratings in a tailspin—Brokaw almost leaped to

ABC News, whose new boss, Roone Arledge, had come courting.

"I came very, VERY close to going," Brokaw said. "So close that I went out to dinner with (wife) Meredith and said, 'I'm gonna do this,' and she went to bed thinking it was a good idea. Then I sat up and drank some scotch and smoked a cigar and stared out the window for several hours."

What he saw, of course, was his future at NBC—which, as Brokaw would be the first to point out, hasn't ended yet.

'Finding Neverland' named year's top film

NEW YORK (AP)—"Finding Neverland," the whimsical, wistful story of "Peter Pan" creator J.M. Barrie, topped the National Board of Review's list as the best film of 2004.

Jamie Foxx was named best actor for his convincing portrayal of Ray Charles in "Ray," and Annette Bening took the top female acting honors for "Being Julia," a showy role in which she plays an aging British stage star.

Annie Schulhof, president of the National Board of Review, described "Finding Neverland" as "visually magical."

"The group also felt the movie transported them to another time and place," Schulhof said Wednesday after the winners were announced. "I think all the elements hit the page for a best NBR film—the acting, the costumes, the set design, the music, and especially the cinematography."

No single film dominated the group's winners, although "Sideways," about best friends on a wine-tasting road trip, was honored in three categories: Thomas Haden Church won the supporting-actor award for his role as a swaggering, washed-up TV actor; director Alexander Payne and his writing partner, Jim Taylor, shared the adapted screenplay honors; and the film was listed among the group's 10 best of the year.

Laura Linney won the supporting-

actress category for "Kinsey," in which she plays the wife of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey. The cast of "Closer"—



In this undated file photo from Sony Pictures Classics, Annette Bening portrays Julia Lambert in Sony Pictures Classics' "Being Julia." Bening took the top female acting honors for the film from the National Board of Review, whose honors list was announced Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004.

Jude Law, Julia Roberts, Clive Owen and Natalie Portman—were honored for best acting by an ensemble.

The Pixar hit "The Incredibles," about a family of super heroes, was named best animated feature. "The Sea

Inside," a Spanish film starring Javier Bardem as a quadriplegic fighting for his right to die, was the top foreign language film. And "Born Into Brothels" was the group's choice for best documentary.

Michael Mann won the best-director award for "Collateral," starring Tom Cruise as a hit man on the prowl in Los Angeles. Writer Charlie Kaufman's "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," about a man (Jim Carrey) who wants to erase the memory of a failed romance, won for best original screenplay. And Clint Eastwood received special filmmaking achievement honors for the boxing drama "Million Dollar Baby," which he directed, produced and stars in, and for which

he composed the score.

The group's top 10, in order: "Find-

ing Neverland," "The Aviator," "Closer," "Million Dollar Baby," "Sideways," "Kinsey," "Vera Drake," "Ray," "Collateral" and "Hotel Rwanda."

The No. 1 choice of "Finding Neverland," starring Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, came as no big surprise to Tom O'Neil, host of the awards handicapping Web site GoldDerby.com.

"The board traditionally likes movies based on real-life characters—movies with literary credentials based on real-life characters, like 'The Hours' and 'Quills,'" O'Neil said.

"And they have certainly demonstrated that they have a profound impact on the Oscars," he added. "They put Halle Berry on the map with 'Monster's Ball.' Halle Berry's win at the National Board of Review was the only major industry award she won in the Oscar home stretch."

But the organization—traditionally the first to announce its top film picks each year—doesn't always jibe with the eventual Academy Award winner. In recent years, the National Board has chosen "Mystic River," "The Hours," "Moulin Rouge" and "Quills," none of which won the best-picture Oscar. In 1999, however, it matched up with the Oscars, picking "American Beauty."

The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, formed 95 years ago, is composed of film historians, students and educators.

Money woes prompt panic at Seattle Opera

SEATTLE (AP)—With Seattle awash in dot-com and aerospace money a few years ago, the city built an airy, \$172 million performance hall for the Seattle Opera and the Pacific Northwest Ballet. But high culture has since become a low priority at City Hall and beyond.

Because of the recent downturn in the Northwest economy, the politicians want the opera and the ballet to shoulder more of the hall's leftover construction costs—a move the two arts organizations fear could ruin them.

The dispute has touched off something of a class debate over whether taxpayers should be subsidizing the tuxedo-and-jewels set.

At issue is the glass-fronted McCaw Hall, the newest addition to Seattle Center, a 76-acre complex that includes the Space Needle and the NBA Seattle SuperSonics' Key Arena.

City voters approved \$38 million for the hall in 1999. Private donors—led by cell-phone magnate Craig McCaw—kicked in \$72 million. Optimistic planners expected King County and the state to contribute, too.

But things changed before the hall even opened its doors a year and a half ago: The dot-coms went bust. The Sept. 11 attacks crippled the region's aerospace industry, anchored by Boeing Co. And the ranks of the unemployed swelled.

Since then, the state and the county have provided only about \$5.5 million of the \$17 million that the opera and the ballet had hoped for to help cover long-term construction costs.

And the city, which has been paying most of the interest on the building up to now, has decided to cover only half those costs for the next two years. After that, Mayor Greg Nickels wants to make the opera and the ballet responsible for all interest and principal, which total \$900,000 a year.

The mayor has suggested the arts organizations handle the added expenses by raising ticket prices or increasing the rent for users of the hall.

But in a recent eight-page news release, the ballet and the opera warned that those suggestions threaten their long-term future. They said raising ticket prices would keep the less affluent out, and the higher expenses will require them to cut performances, jobs or community programs.

A Seattle Times editorial ridiculed the opera-ballet news release as an "ill-advised hissy-fit." And the squabble prompted cranky letters to the editor from citizens who consider opera and ballet pastimes of the rich.

"While the venue is a public building, it is dishonest to suggest that it serves anything other than a mostly private purpose for its wealthy patrons," David Keenan of Seattle wrote in a letter published Nov. 15. "Considering the \$25 million budget gap our municipality is facing, I suspect that the city's opera patrons could, and should, pay an extra dollar or two the next time they attend 'Das Rheingold.'"

Naughty and nice treats from your DVD grab bag



After being forced to sit through 90 minutes of hell with *Christmas with the Kranks*, I really feel like I need to cleanse my palate with a better Christmas movie. Sure, I may be slightly cynical, every now and then, but I enjoy a little Capra-corn just as much as anybody else. While *Christmas with the Kranks* and *Surviving Christmas* (on DVD this month) are examples of Christmas cheer gone wrong, here are a few that got it right.



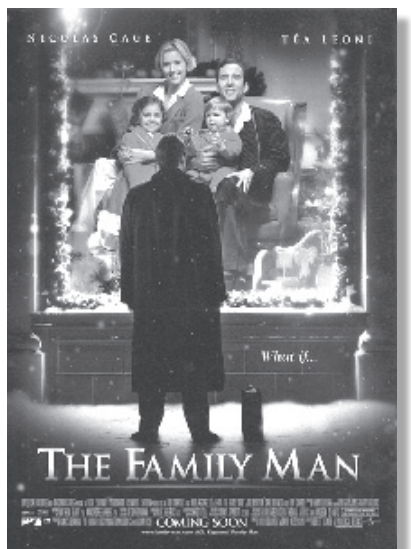
By JOE WEINDL
Special to the
Saipan Tribune

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)



Let's start with the most obvious. You know I had to include this one on the list. This sweet tale, starring James Stewart as George Bailey, is universally loved for good reason. Director Frank Capra remains the king of "feel-good" movies (hence the moniker "Capra-corn"), and this is his crowning achievement. *It's a Wonderful Life* strikes a chord with everybody because it so effectively affirms the value of the average, everyday good person.

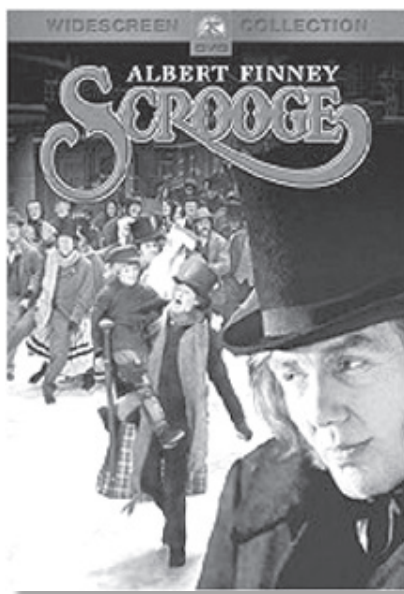
The Family Man (2000)



Never, in my life, would I have expected to enjoy a schmaltzy romantic comedy with Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni. What a pleasant surprise this movie turned out to be. In a twist on *It's a Wonderful Life*, Cage plays a "successful" businessman living an empty, joyless life. On one Christmas Eve, he is given the opportunity to experience what his life could've been like, had he chosen family over career. *The Family Man* is as sappy as can be, but it works because both Cage

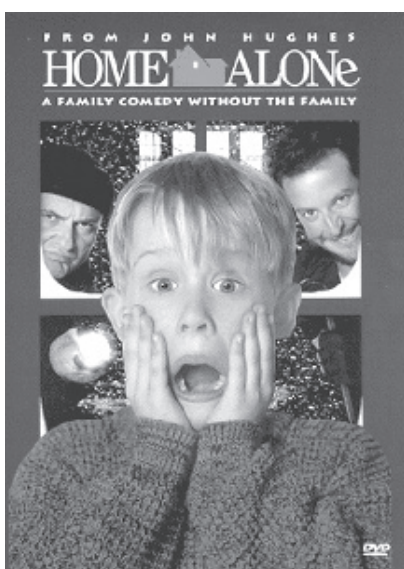
and Leoni turn in outstanding performances.

Scrooge (1970)



Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol* has been done a million times over, and there are many good versions. This 1970 musical version, starring Albert Finney as Ebenezer Scrooge, is my personal favorite. This one wasn't too popular with most critics, and surprisingly few people have seen it. Finney's acting is terrific, though, and seeing him transform from singing "I Hate People" to "Thank You Very Much" is just as fantastic now, as it was in childhood.

Home Alone (1990)



As with Vanilla Ice's "Ice, Ice, Baby", I doubt there are many grown adults who would admit they actually liked Macaulay Culkin's acting debut. Maybe you'll seem cooler by pretending you're above the immature slapstick comedy and in-your-face cheesiness of *Home Alone*. But we all know you're lying. You saw *Home Alone*, and liked it. Fourteen years later, it's pretty much a guarantee that your kids will like it, and I'll bet you might

again enjoy it, too.

Bad Santa (2003)



Before I tell you why I love *Bad Santa*, I need to make one thing clear—this is not to be mistaken for a family Christmas movie, and children should definitely not watch it. Billy Bob Thornton plays a pathetic, lonely burglar, with a terrible addiction to alcohol. He and his vertically challenged cohort pose as Santa and his elf at a different department store every year, so that they can rob it blind on Christmas Eve. If you enjoy dark comedy, you'll LOVE *Bad Santa*—it

simply does not come any better than this. Amazingly enough, there actually is a surprisingly endearing and affecting story of redemption in *Bad Santa*, so it actually fits in quite nicely with more traditional Christmas fare.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Surely, you've seen at least one of the *Vacation* movies. The original, of course, is loved by many, but the sequels are a bit more polarizing. Some people love *Vegas Vacation*; others hate it. Same thing goes for *European Vacation*. My two cents—*Christmas Vacation* is the best of



a perennial classic in my household.

them all, and even tops the original.

Personally, I've never felt the need to put on any false pretense, and pretend that I don't enjoy slapstick comedy, so long as it's done right. Can anyone honestly say that they don't get a good chuckle out of any *Three Stooges* movie, or any old *Three's Company* reruns? Chevy Chase, as Clark Griswold, fits in perfectly with Larry, Moe, Curly, and Jack Tripper, making *Christmas Vacation*

Comments? E-mail Weindl at joewatchemovies@yahoo.com.

WALLACE

New wife is paying the price for husband's foolish youth

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A person very dear to my heart, "Ruth," has always donated to her community blood drives. It's a form of philanthropy she enjoys. Ruth remarried a few months ago and asked her new husband, "Tony," to attend the blood drive with her. His reply left her stunned and changed her life forever. Tony confided that in his youth, he had been a needle-type drug user and now he can't give blood.

Mind you, Tony is a good, hardworking, straight-arrow man now, but he was foolish in his youth. When Ruth went to the blood drive, she was asked: "In the past 12 months have you slept with anyone who has ever used a needle?" She explained that yes, as a teenager, her husband had done drugs. She was told that as long as she is with Tony, she can't give blood anymore. Ruth is hurt and angry at her husband for what he took from her. I feel lost as a friend about what to say to help her.

Abby, Tony's drug use was more than 27 years ago. Is Ruth right that this will follow them forever and she can never give blood again?

GIFT OF LIFE GONE IN MARYLAND

DEAR GIFT: Your letter is a pertinent reminder that youthful experimentation can have lifelong consequences. Those rules were established for a good reason—to protect our blood supply. In years past, some people were infected with life-threatening diseases because the supply of donated blood was not screened well enough, so it makes perfect sense that organizations now go to exceptional lengths to guarantee the safety of blood and blood products.

It might lift your friend's spirits if you remind her that there are other things she can do to contribute to her community. She could volunteer to work at the blood drive in some capacity other than a donor. She could also hold a bake sale to raise funds for "the cause." Rather than blaming her husband at this late date, she should respect the rules and explore her other options.

DEAR ABBY: My nephew, who is also my godson, has decided to marry my youngest stepdaughter. Which side of the church should I sit on—the bride's or the groom's side? My husband and children think I should sit on the groom's side. I am afraid someone will feel hurt no matter what I do.

BETWIXT AND BETWEEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR BETWIXT: Ask your nephew and stepdaughter where they would like you to sit and abide by their decision. The alternative would be to bring a folding chair and sit in the middle.

DEAR ABBY: With the holidays approaching, I would like to share an alternative to the traditional office gift exchange. For the past few years, we have drawn names, but instead of buying gifts, we buy toys that in some way remind us of the person whose name we have drawn. The toy can represent their hobby, their job, their personality, etc.

After exchanging the gifts at our annual Christmas party and seeing how creative our fellow workers have been, the toys are then donated to a toy drive.

This tradition is rewarding for us and joyful for the children who otherwise would not receive gifts.

ELVES IN GLENDALE

DEAR ELVES: I love the idea. The gifts don't have to be expensive, and more than one person can enjoy them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Sisters eliminated from 'Amazing Race'

NEW YORK (AP)—The sister team on CBS' "The Amazing Race" failed to find a clue in a haystack, eliminating them from the race around the world.

Kristy, 26, and Lena Jensen, 23, were the third of nine remaining teams to arrive at a challenge at a rural Swedish farm, where team members were assigned to find a clue by unraveling a series of 200-pound hay bales. After an eight-hour search, Lena never gave up - or found the clue.

"I just felt like I didn't have any option to quit," Lena told The Associated Press Wednesday. "I knew how much Kristy sacrificed to do the 'Amazing Race.' I think I mentally checked out about an hour into it."

"It was heart-wrenching seeing all the other teams we passed then seeing them pass us," said Kristy.

Breaking protocol, "Amazing Race" host Phil Keoghan went to the challenge site to inform the Utah sisters they had been eliminated from the race. Usually, contestants rush to meet Keoghan at his "Amazing Race" mat at a predetermined pit stop.

"It was very dramatic to see Phil," said Kristy, who was at the farm until after dusk. "We didn't see him coming in. Ultimately, we just wanted to find that stupid clue."

The religious background of Mormons Kristy and Lena, one of the few teams who didn't have an on-screen spat, was notably—and

In this undated photo from CBS, sisters Lena, seated, and Kristy Jensen from Pleasant Grove, Utah, failed to find a clue as darkness descended in a Talby, Sweden, haystack and were eliminated from CBS' "The Amazing Race" in a segment broadcast Tuesday, November 30, 2004.

AP



expectedly—featured during their time on the show.

"We were a little worried about being dubbed the Mormon sisters," Kristy told the AP.

Jury selected for Robert Blake's trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury of seven men and five women was selected Wednesday to decide whether actor Robert Blake murdered his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

The panel was selected and sworn in after a prosecutor and defense attorney used numerous challenges to remove potential jurors from the jury box. They did not have to state a reason for the peremptory challenges.

Six alternate jurors, three

women and three men, also were chosen.

The panel was ordered to return Monday morning for opening statements. In the interim, Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp plans to hold hearings on motions.

Bakley was shot May 4, 2001, in a car near a restaurant where she and Blake had just dined. Blake, 71, star of the old "Bar-etta" TV series, had married her after DNA tests showed he was

the father of her baby.

Blake pleaded not guilty to murder and solicitation of murder. He is free on \$1.5 million bail, but confined to home.

The final selection came after two weeks of individual questioning of prospective jurors who were warned by the prosecutor that the case against Blake is entirely circumstantial.

The jurors ranged from the very young to the old, with a number of middle-age panelists.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Paris Hilton stapler leads auction at \$1K

NEW YORK (AP)—\$1,000 for a stapler? No, it's not holiday shopping madness, but an online auction for a Paris Hilton autographed stapler.

Office retailer Staples is holding a "Staplers of the Stars" online charity auction of celebrity signed staplers. With more than 140 celebs in the mix, Hilton's stapler is currently leading the pack at \$1,005.

Hilton is followed by Donald Trump and Katie Couric, whose autographed staplers are each going for \$800. Other staplers being bid on are signed by Ringo Starr, Kobe Bryant, Bill Gates, Rudy Giuliani and Cher.

All of the proceeds go to a charity of each star's choosing.

Since the auction opened on Nov. 16, more than 2,600 bids have been placed. The staplers are available to bid on until Dec. 6 at www.staples.com.

'Joan of Arcadia' tops Family TV Awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The CBS-TV shows "Joan of Arcadia" and "Everybody Loves Raymond" took top family-friendly TV honors during Wednesday night's presentations at the 6th Annual Family Television Awards.

NBC-TV's coverage of the Olympic Games won for best TV special, ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" won for top reality show, ABC-TV's "Lost" was voted best new series and Bernie

Mac of Fox's "The Bernie Mac Show" was named best actor.

"Joan of Arcadia" won as best drama and its star Amber Tamblyn shared the top actress award with "Everybody Loves Raymond" actress Doris Roberts. The best comedy show went to "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Winners of Family Television Awards are picked by members of the Association of National Advertisers—major corporate marketers—to honor outstanding programming for family viewing.

Brian Wilson to receive MusiCares Award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beach Boys founder Brian Wilson has been named the 2005 MusiCares Person of the Year by the

Report: 'Suge' Knight eyed in Vibe brawl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police and probation officials have been reviewing video of the melee at the Vibe Awards show to determine if rap producer Marion "Suge" Knight played a role in the altercation.

Knight has denied any involvement in the incident in which a man struck Dr. Dre twice, sparking a brawl in which the attacker was stabbed and seriously injured.

Dre, whose real name is Andre Young, met with authorities Monday at the Santa Monica police station and demanded that his attacker, Jimmy "James" Johnson, be charged with assault and battery.

Videotape shows Johnson punching Dre on Nov. 16 at the second annual awards show. Johnson was then stabbed, allegedly by Young Buck, a rapper who is a protege of Dr. Dre.

Young Buck, whose real name is David Darnell Brown, surrendered Nov. 19 to authorities and is scheduled to be arraigned Dec. 20.

Knight and Dre co-founded Death Row Records in the early 1990s and produced hits from rappers such as Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg. The two, however, had a falling out in the mid-1990s.

Knight was released from prison in 2001 after serving time for assault and weapons violations.

and the conditions for his parole ban him from having any contact with Dre.

Knight entered the awards show without an invitation and sat just a few feet behind Dre, who was receiving a lifetime achievement award.

Attorney Milton Grimes, who once represented Knight and now represents Johnson, denied any involvement by Knight.



Knight

Recording Academy. Wilson, 62, will receive the honor at a tribute dinner, concert and auction Feb. 11 in Los Angeles, the academy said Tuesday.

A slate of performers who will pay tribute to Wilson will be announced in January. The gala is part of a weeklong festival leading up to the 47th Annual Grammy Awards, which will be presented by the academy Feb. 13.

The songwriter was selected for his accomplishments as a musician and for his philanthropic efforts benefiting research to cure cancer and other ailments.

Wilson, his two younger brothers, Dennis and Carl, cousin Mike Love and friend Al Jardine, formed the Beach Boys in 1961, who wrote hits like "I Get Around" and "California Girls."



Pastimes





TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB
HOUSTON ASTROS-Fired Jimmy Williams, manager; Burt Hooton, pitching coach; and Harry Spilman, hitting coach. Named Phil Garner manager, Jim Hickey pitching coach, and Gary Gaetti hitting coach.

NBA
ATLANTA HAWKS-Signed C Jason Collier.
BOSTON CELTICS-Re-signed C Mark Blount to a six-year contract.
CHARLOTTE BOBCATS-Signed G Jason Hart and F Tamar Slay.
DALLAS MAVERICKS-Re-signed G Marquis Daniels to a five-year contract with a team option.
DETROIT PISTONS-Signed F Antonio McDyess to a four-year contract with a team option and G-F Carlos Delfino to a three-year contract with a team option.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS-Re-signed C Adonal Foyle to a six-year contract.
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS-Traded F-C Melvin Ely and G Eddie House to Charlotte for 2005 and 2006 second-round draft picks.
LOS ANGELES LAKERS-Traded C Shaquille O'Neal to Miami for F Lamar Odom, F Caron Butler, F-C Brian Grant and a future first-round draft pick.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES-Signed F Brian Cardinal to a six-year contract.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS-Signed C Etan Thomas to a six-year offer sheet.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS-Signed F Brian Skinner to a multiyear contract.
PHOENIX SUNS-Signed G Quentin Richardson to a six-year offer sheet. Signed G Steve Nash to a six-yr contract.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS-Re-signed F Bruce Bowen. Signed G Beno Udrih.
TORONTO RAPTORS-Signed G Rafer Alston to a five-year contract.
UTAH JAZZ-Signed F Carlos Boozer and C Mehmet Okur to six-year offer sheets. Re-signed G Carlos Arroyo to a four-year contract.

NFL
GREEN BAY PACKERS-Voided the trade of DE Jamal Reynolds to Indianapolis after Reynolds failed his physical and waived him.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS-Released S Jason Perry.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES-Signed G Adrien Clarke to a four-year contract and LB Jeremiah Trotter to a one-year contract.

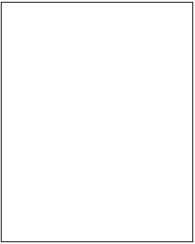
Olympics
U.S. OLYMPIC MEN'S ROAD CYCLING TEAM-Announced Levi Leipheimer will replace Lance Armstrong.

College
AUBURN-Named Casey Dunn assistant baseball coach.
DARTMOUTH-Named Maribel Sanchez Souther women's cross country coach.
EVERGREEN STATE-Named Kim Farnsworth athletic trainer.
HOUSTON-Named John Severance women's tennis coach.
N.J. CITY-Named Bridgette Quimpo softball coach.
NORTH DAKOTA STATE-Named Eric Viney women's assistant volleyball coach.
NORTHWESTERN-Announced men's junior basketball F Bernard Cote will transfer from Kentucky.
OKLAHOMA-Named Bill Pink director of women's basketball operations.
PALM BEACH ATLANTIC-Announced the resignation of Chris Bizol, men's and women's tennis coach, to take a position with Texas-Tyler.
RHODE ISLAND-Announced the resignation of Boe Pearman, women's basketball coach.
SANTA CLARA-Named M. Felipe Montoro assistant cross country coach and Steve Drake women's assistant basketball coach.
SETON HALL-Named Gerson Echeverry men's assistant soccer coach.
SKIDMORE-Named Darren Bennett women's basketball coach.
ST. FRANCIS, PA.-Named Wylie Crisanti women's lacrosse coach.
TULSA-Named Christy Connoyer softball coach.
WRIGHT STATE-Named Rob Cooper baseball coach.

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

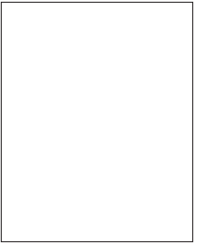
RESTAURANT LEAGUE STANDINGS		
Angel Wings	3	0
Country House	3	1
Jollibee	3	1
Capricciosa	2	1
Keeraku	1	2
LSG Sky Chefs	0	3
El Segundo	0	4



27

Saipan Tribune Sports

25



48 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003

SAIPAN TRIBUNE